

SHARING THE RV LIFESTYLE 

ESCAPEES

AN RV SNOWBIRD'S DELIGHT
YUMA, ARIZONA
PAGE 44

FREE FUN
SAVING WHILE SEEING;
AN ADVENTURE IN ITSELF
PAGE 49



STRETCH IT OUT
END THE ACHES AND PAINS
OF TRAVEL DAYS
PAGE 52

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The New Year arrives full of hopes, promises and new opportunities. Once more, the words of Martin Luther King echo in my mind: "I have a dream."

I guess all of us have dreams. For most of us, as soon as one is fulfilled, another springs up to take its place. Whenever I think of dreams, I think of a man I met in South Dakota. He was a giant of a man with a giant of a dream.

His name was Korczak Ziolkowski. But you may know him as "that crazy Polack," the egotist, who thought he was capable of doing the impossible. A stupid man who wasted his life whittling at a mountain which he had the audacity to think he could carve into a great statue of the Indian Chief, Crazy Horse.

You may be one of the many who believe Korczak was nothing but a talented con artist, but I know better.

Joe and I spent an entire day with him. I sat beside him as his Jeep climbed the rock-strewn road that he built himself. I climbed behind him up the wooden scaffold and stood with him on the point of rock that is the tip of Crazy Horse's pointing finger.

As he unfolded his plan for us step by step, I saw the dedication burning in his eyes.

And I heard the bitterness in his voice when he said, "They told me I was crazy to waste my life this way. They told me it was impossible. It couldn't be done. And then they did everything they could to stop me, to prove they were right."

Then he shook himself as if trying to get loose from some invisible chain. He put his arm on my shoulder. His eyes welled with tears. His voice softened as he said, "They don't understand. They think all I care about is building a memorial to myself. None of them will ever know the sheer ecstasy of carving a mountain."

Perhaps I understand him because, in a sense, Joe and I are like Korczak.

No, we are not skilled sculptors. But like Korczak, we have dedicated ourselves to molding the idea of a special kind of club into a permanent structure that, like Korczak's statue, will not be finished in our lifetime.

As Korczak had his critics; so, too, do we. But, when you have a dream, you cannot allow the critics to push you off the mountain.

Our dream is to turn the Escapees into a total support network for RVers. We know, if we have enough money, time and members, there is no limit to what we can do.

Yes, we have a dream. Don't waste your time telling us it can never be. Because, like Korczak, we're going to do it, even if it can't be done.

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Kay Peterson
Co-founder **ESCAPEESRVClub**®

The Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills, in Custer County, South Dakota, United States.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS





TAMMY JOHNSON #39557
Editor, *Escapees* Magazine

“I wish you all happy travels.”

Happy New Year to all our *Escapees* magazine readers. I hope you are getting this new year off to a great start. At the time of this writing, we are still in pandemic mode, and my hopes are that, by now, we’re beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

For those of you who may be new to the RV lifestyle and Escapees RV Club, I’d like to offer you a heartfelt welcome, and best wishes for many exciting adventures throughout 2021.

I’d also like to take this opportunity to say thank-you to all our loyal magazine contributors who take time to share their travel stories and helpful hints with other club members in order to make their RV life more fun and a little easier.

Even though you may have left your sticks-and-bricks neighborhood, know that you still have a support network of friends within the Escapees RVing community. Whatever difficulty may arise, you can be assured that there is always an Escapees friend available to give you a hand. Setting out on the open road to places unknown may be a bit scary at first; however, the beautiful landscapes, interesting people and amazing experiences awaiting you will soon diminish any preconceived fears.

As you set out on your journey through 2021, I hope you will find those special people and enchanted places that remind you of why you initially chose this adventurous lifestyle in the first place. I wish you all happy travels and a much better year than the one before. 🚐



On the Cover

Veronica Ibañez #124732 took this cover photo in December of 2016 while she and her husband, Denny, were having fun in Ocotillo Wells, California.



FEATURES

- 36 **Black Ice** *Cold-weather caution for the road.* **BY CECIL DALE**
- 40 **New Nomads** *Life on the road during the pandemic.* **BY RENE AGREDANO**
- 44 **An RV Snowbird's Delight** *Yuma, Arizona.* **BY EMILY FAGAN**
- 49 **Free Fun** *Saving while seeing; an adventure in itself.* **BY EVANNE SCHMARDER**
- 52 **Stretch It Out** *Ease the aches and pains of travel days.* **BY THERESÉ JULO**
- 57 **Estate Planning Documents** *The things we leave behind.* **BY K. SUSIE ADAMS**
- 62 **Finding and Fixing Leaks** *Refrigerator and propane.* **BY ALFRED OXTON**

Making day trips from their base in Ocotillo Wells, California, Veronica Ibañes and her husband, Denny, ventured through off-roading terrain, such as sand hills, canyons, dirt roads and washes. A highlight of their December stay was Pumpkin Patch, a location with pumpkin-shaped rock formations, shaped by the wind and sand. New Year's festivities were shared with fellow Xscapers whom they met in the desert.

PHOTO BY VERONICA IBAÑES #124732



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DEPARTMENTS

- 85 Advertisers Index
- 32 Day's End *COMPILED BY GUY GIPSON*
- 34 Different Viewpoints
- 30 60th Escapade *BY DUANE AND JEAN MATHES*
- 26 Escapees Head Out Program *BY LISA KOCA*
- 28 From the Bookshelf *BY MARCELLA GAUTHER*
- 11 Mark, My Words *BY MARK NEMETH*
- 84 Marketplace
- 66 Message from the Board *BY SHAWN LORING*
- 06 RV Gadget Box *BY MARK NEMETH*
- 18 SKP Stops
- 01 Thoughts for the Road *BY KAY PETERSON*
- 14 Tips
- 22 Viewfinder
- 08 Weight and Safety Tip *BY JIM KOCA*

MEMBER SECTION

- 80 Birds-of-a-Feather Groups
- 74 Boondocking Policy
- 77 Calling All Chapters
- 76 Chapter Map
- 86 Classified Ads
- BC Club Benefits
- 72 Events and Rally Calendar
- 79 Escapees RVers Boot Camp
- 24 Escapees CARE, Inc.
- 08 Escapees SmartWeigh
- 87 Final Journeys
- 68 Hangouts *BY DAVID AND CHERYL GOLDSTEIN*
- 82 Park Chart and Events
- 88 RVers' Good Neighbor Policy
- 78 SKP Dine-outs
- 69 Xscapers *BY TRAVIS AND MELANIE CARR*
- 70 Xscapers Events



TIREMINDER A1AS RV TPMS WITH 10 TRANSMITTERS



06

14

62



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TIRE PRESSURE MONITORING SYSTEMS

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

We recently had the opportunity to test a couple of TireMinder's tire pressure monitoring systems (TPMS). I took the TireMinder i10 RV TPMS for a several-thousand-mile ride this summer, and Jim Koca, our Boot Camp director, tested the A1AS.

For those of you unfamiliar with RV TPMS, it's a device that monitors your RV's tire pressure and temperature as you travel. Most systems have sensors that screw onto the valve stem of each tire and communicate with a central display on your dash. These tire sensors have batteries in them, and TireMinder systems utilize sensors that have user-replaceable batteries, a nice touch. The system monitors your tires as you travel and sounds an alarm if tire pressure drops, or if you exceed temperature and pressure setpoints that you set up during installation.



TIREMINDER i10 RV TPMS WITH FOUR TRANSMITTERS, MSRP: \$249

Review of the i10 System

The i10 is a nice compact unit with an easy-to-read screen. It's designed for folks who want to add TPMS to a trailer, and mine came with four sensors, but the device supports up to 20 sensors, so it will work with just about any RV. I had no trouble setting it up, thanks to the excellent manual in the box. I tested the system thoroughly on our SmartWeigh calibrated air source before I installed it on the RV. It performed flawlessly, sensing slow leaks, fast leaks, over-pressure and over-temperature. I did notice that all four sensors gave exactly the same pressure reading on the tester, and reported pressure was within the +/- 3% manual specification for accuracy.

On the RV, I installed the small repeater/filter device in a cabinet. It requires 12-V power to operate, but only draws a few milliamps, so you can leave it running all the



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time. The repeater helps extend the range of the system for larger RVs and trailers and reduces RF interference between the sensors and the display. The dash monitor sticks to the windshield with a suction cup mount and plugs into a cigarette lighter for power. It uses the standard 5-volt micro USB connector, so any phone or device charger will power it. It has a built-in battery, and its battery life seems to be in the 8–12 hour range. I run mine off a two-port USB charger/adaptor, along with my GPS.

One of the best things about having a TPMS is you can touch the power button while you are prepping for the road and check all your tire pressures without breaking out a gauge! The manual says to allow 4–10 minutes for all the sensors to check in when the vehicle isn't moving, so I turn mine on while I prep for departure. If you're in a hurry, simply moving the vehicle a

few feet wakes up all the sensors, and you'll receive the current pressures. The system worked perfectly without problems as I traveled last summer. It's a keeper!

Review of the A1AS System

Jim tested the A1AS system. It has a full-color 5.5" LCD display and can show both the tow vehicle and towed vehicle in real time. The system supports (and displays) up to 22 sensors and is smartphone enabled, allowing you to view the system on your iPhone, iPad, or android device. Jim says: After receiving the A1AS and opening the box, I was pleasantly surprised to see that the signal booster was included. The signal booster provides the necessary signal boost from the tire transmitters to the receiving unit in the cab of the pulling unit. Without the signal booster, there is the possibility of not receiving a signal from the tire transmitters.


Another feature about the A1AS is the large color display. The previous systems that I have used had a smaller display, which was hard to see. With the bigger screen, it allowed me to place the receiver in a convenient, easy to see location in the cab of the RV.

The manual that came with the system was easy to read. It began with an initial setup section to get started quickly. But, as the manual states, you need to read the entire manual. There are YouTube videos to assist you in installing the system. The best way to set your tires to the proper tire pressure for the load they are carrying is to get the RV weighed by individual wheel position. That way you can set the proper air pressure for all the tires.

Once installed, the A1AS TPMS should provide you with many miles of trouble-free driving; knowing what is going on with your tires will ensure peace of mind.

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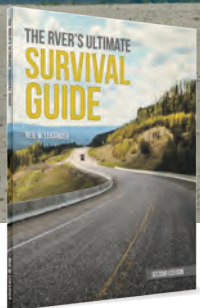
Both systems come with a three-year warranty and access to TireMinder's free battery program. After you register your system online at www.tireminder.com, or send in your warranty card, you can request free replacement batteries for all your sensors online or by phone. All you pay is a \$5 shipping charge!

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



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Do you get tired while driving? If you find you need a little exercise and something to help you wake up, then pull over into a rest area or fueling station and do the RV walk-around. The RV walk-around can be considered as a safety break, a way to get out of the RV, walk around and look at the RV for any potential problems on your trip.

During this walk-around you are looking low, middle and high in order to check the RV. Starting at one corner, walk around the entire unit, checking everything. The problems you might encounter include tire issues, loose screws on the side of the RV, problems with the hitch or awning, or a slide creeping out a little. You may also find problems with the suspension, leaking fluids, bay doors that have come unlatched or hot bearings.

For my RV walk-around, I have encountered every one of these items with the exception of hot bearings. While pulling a fifth-wheel trailer on I-10 outside of Van Horn, Texas, I pulled into a rest area to walk around and found a couple of loose screws and a broken shackle. If I had traveled further down the road, it could have been disastrous. I could have lost an axle. I was able to repair the problem in Van Horn and continue the trip.

Don't take the walk-around for granted. Remember to look low, middle and high for any potential problems.

If you find a problem, address it so you can travel on down the road with peace of mind. 🚚

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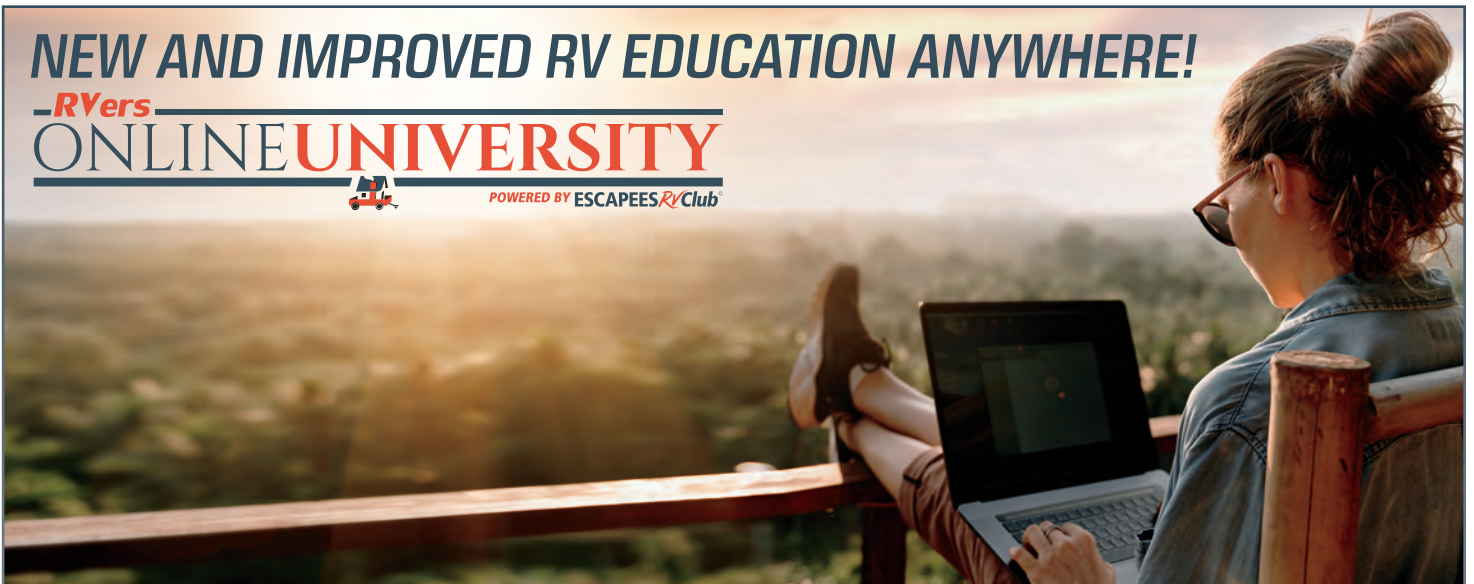
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Your RV Questions

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



Internet on the Road

Q. I want to work while on the road; however, I must have reliable Internet access. My work provides the laptop computer with VPN access, but I may not always have Wifi access available, especially while my husband is driving down the road. What do others do or purchase to have reliable Internet service anywhere, anytime while on the road?

Melissa

A. You need to connect with Xscapers. It's a lifestyle group within the Escapees Club that's for folks who are working on the road and traveling with families. The site is [Xscapers.com](https://xscapers.com/category/mobile-internet/), and they have a blog dedicated to mobile Internet. Visit <https://xscapers.com/category/mobile-internet/>. There are a number of folks who also maintain personal websites dealing with Internet on the road. Chris and Cherie are a good example. Check them out online at www.technomadia.com. It can indeed be done! Best of luck in making your RV dreams come true!

COLD NIGHTS

Q. We're leaving for Florida in a week, but because the nightly temperatures here are still going down in the upper 20s, I haven't dewinterized the trailer. Our first stop will be south of Richmond, Virginia, and the temperature there is only slightly warmer than we are here. What should we do about dewinterizing our trailer?

Jeff

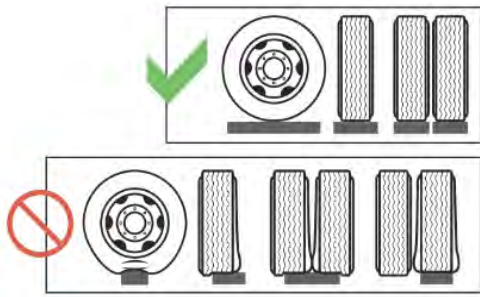
A. Although it's a pain to live in a rig without running water, I'd still suggest that you don't dewinterize until you are far enough south to be out of freezing temperatures. Traveling through sub-freezing weather is worse than sitting still, as the wind will sometimes reach areas in the rig that wouldn't normally freeze. I suggest you drink and cook with bottled water and utilize campground or truckstop shower facilities until you're sure you're out of the chill. You can use the toilet and sinks; just be sure to keep the holding tanks as empty as possible, dumping them whenever you have the chance. It's just for a few days.

Tighten Up!

Q. I have owned my class-C motorhome for 14 years. During the first 10 years, the rooftop AC would occasionally pause for a few seconds, but for the most part the AC worked fine. Three or four years ago, I was looking in the electrical control box, and I happened to put a screwdriver on the screw to the AC hot lead in the circuit breaker. The screw was loose. Since the day I tightened it, the AC never paused again.

Ted

A. This is something all RVers should consider doing from time to time: Tighten all electrical connections in the breaker box. Those boxes were designed for residential use and not for the high-vibration environment in an RV. Thanks for the tip and reminder!



Leveling Blocks

Q. We are newbies and just purchased a class-B Mercedes Sprinter with no auto leveling included. Since I've read mixed reviews, can you recommend a brand or type of leveling blocks, and how many might we need?

Specs are wheelbase 170" dual rear wheels, GCWR is 15,250.

Lois

A. Almost everyone uses Lynx Levelers, as they are lightweight and easy to stack and store. They come in packs of 10 for around \$30. (<https://www.amazon.com/Tri-Lynx-00015-Lynx-Levelers-Pack/dp/B0028PJ10K>)

I personally carry 24 blocks, and that allows me to stack them up and get three to five inches of lift if I need it. You might start with 10 and then buy more if you think you need them. One tip: If you're faced with unlevel campsites, always try to park the rig so that the nose is lower than the tail. With dual rear wheels, it takes twice as many blocks to raise the rear because you have to put blocks under both tires. Above is a little graphic that shows how to properly use leveling blocks.

BATTERY DISCONNECT— ECM Memory Loss

Q. My condominium doesn't allow permanent parking of RVs, so I keep my 1998 Dodge Roadtrek 190 Popular in an uncovered RV storage. I have a solar panel that keeps my house batteries always happy. I disconnect the engine starter battery when it is fully charged, and it starts right up upon reconnection, even after several weeks. However, when I took it to be smogged, it failed the test. My friendly smogger told me to drive it around in town and on the highway for a few days and bring it back. It passed. He said that when the battery is disconnected, it "loses the memory." Can you please educate me on this mystery? I'm baffled and not a mechanic.

Mabelle

A. Your mechanic is correct. The engine computer, often referred to as an ECM, "learns" the operating parameters of your engine while you drive, and stores those learned variables in memory. When you disconnect the battery, the ECM loses all that memory, and it has to re-learn the engine parameters before it operates at peak efficiency. It's not anything that will cause problems or damage; it just is. You can continue to disconnect the engine battery, just be aware that you need to drive it a bit afterwards to let the computer catch back up.

WATER LINES BELOW RV

Q. I have a 2015 Palomino Puma rkss30. On the underbelly, near the drain cock, are two water lines, one white pex and one red pex. They are both capped. Can I tie in a hot water line from a large water heater, located in an out-building next to the RV, and use this heated water source instead of my six-gallon on-board water heater, since I live in my RV full-time? Also, I would install a shutoff valve on the line when I begin to move the RV.

Ed

A. Those capped lines may be "low point drains," used to drain the water out of the fresh-water plumbing. Often, they are attached to valves located in a cabinet or a compartment. I don't see any reason why just hooking the red line to a hot-water source would cause any damage, but I've never actually tried it. It's an interesting question. Thinking about it, I can foresee some complications. First, you should make sure the system water pressure at the source doesn't exceed about 60 psi. Both the cold city water hookup and the new hot line need to be fed from the same source, thus guaranteeing the pressure on each line is the same. A cold-water spigot (hookup) added to the cold-water piping that is going to the big water heater would be ideal. If there's a valve above that red PEX, it may restrict the flow of hot water to an unacceptable extent. Otherwise, I think it could work.

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

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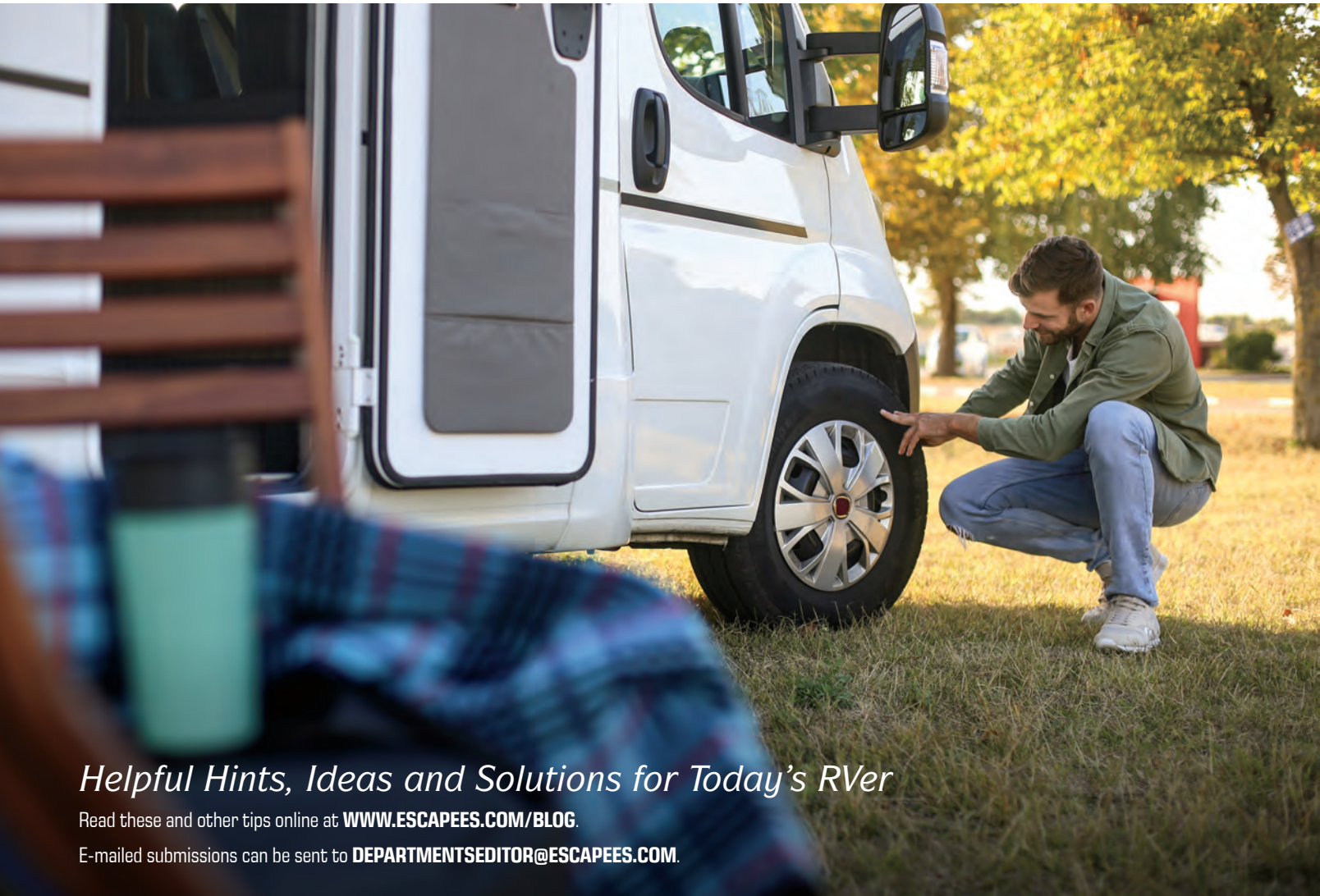
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E-mailed submissions can be sent to DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM.

The Pre-Trip Inspection

The pre-trip inspection is the most important part of leaving a campground. It is much easier to fix a problem in the campground than on the side of the road. Each rig is different, but I will cover those rig-specific items in a moment. First, we'll cover the things that apply to all RVers, regardless of what type of RV you operate.

All RVers Should:

- Check your tires for the correct pressure, cuts, bulges, as well as tread depth or any separation issues.
- Make sure that the windows and mirrors are clean inside and out. Look for cracks, stone chips or breaks in the glass.

- Access the engine compartment and check the level of all the liquids: oil, radiator, power steering fluid, transmission fluid, windshield washer and brake fluid. Look at the belts for wear or cracking and give each a tug to be sure it's under proper tension. Look for any signs of fluid leaks or anything that "doesn't look right."
- Make sure all lights are working properly. Turn on your four-way flashers and headlights, then walk around your rig to see that everything is working properly. Also check your brake lights and turn signals. Once you are on the road, be sure to use the turn signals when changing lanes or turning.
- I suggest you do three walk-arounds: On the first walk-around, look down. Is everything unhooked and put away? Is there anything on the ground around the rig that is not supposed to be there? Look for big rocks, picnic tables, bushes or utility hook-ups that may be in the way.

- On the second walk-around, look level. Have your keys in hand and be sure all the cargo doors are closed and locked and your slides are in. Notice the general condition of the rig; does it need a wash or is anything out of order or needing repair? Are the steps up and grab rail put away?
- On the third walk-around, look up. Is the satellite or TV antenna down? Check for any overhanging tree limbs that might be in the way when you swing out to leave.

Checks for different types of rigs:

Motorhomes

- Is the door awning closed? I have seen them left without proper closure a few times, as well as the porch light being left on.
- You should do an air-brake test. As mine is three pages long, I suggest you search online for the CDL book in your state and read what is required for this test. Wait until the air pressure is at 100 PSI before trying to move the rig. Since some motorhomes dump the air suspension before leveling, make sure you reset the air bags to travel.

Travel Trailers

- The breakaway cable is intended to set the brakes on the trailer in case it comes unhooked from the tow vehicle while going down the road. It must be attached to something solid on the tow vehicle itself. It is extremely important not to simply slip it over the ball on your hitch, because if the hitch falls out of the tow vehicle, the cable will just go with it and not set the brakes as intended.
- Be sure the safety chains are crossed and not dragging on the ground. Be sure the right tension is applied to the equalizer bars and that the hitch is properly hooked to the ball.

Fifth-Wheels

- Do a pull check. Hook the trailer lighting cord to truck, raise the landing gear about one inch from the ground, apply the trailer brakes manually and pull on the trailer (only one or two inches) with the truck, if the wheels slide, the fifth-wheel hitch is locked correctly and the trailer brakes are working. Now you can raise the landing gear completely and look at the slide marks to see if all the brakes are working equally.
- Be sure the break-away cable is attached to something that will stay with the tow vehicle.
- Ready for the road?

Once all checks are complete, take a moment inside the driving area. Make sure the radio, GPS, TPMS and copilot are ready and set for the trip. Be sure all the gauges and indicator lights are working. In new vehicles, they all come on when the master switch (ignition key) is turned on. Adjust the climate controls to a comfortable temperature. Set your seat and mirrors before moving. Now, you can get going and have a safe trip!

Glyn Carson #103499, twolanedrivingtips@hotmail.com



GLYN CARSON has been a commercial driver since 1974. He drove limousines and busses for entertainers while living in Nashville, Tennessee, and after moving to Alaska in 1997, he worked for the highway department plowing snow on the Alaskan Ice Road to Prudhoe Bay. He is a certified class-A CDL instructor and has taught RVers to drive their rigs safely since 2013.



TIRE SAFETY AND WEIGHT COMMENTS

In “Mark, My Words,” in the November/December issue, Benjamin asked a question in regard to tire blowouts. Mark’s response was directed to weight. In this case, tire age could be responsible. If the tires were originals, they could be seven to eight years old. Age can contribute to tire blowouts, especially if unit is stored outside in the sun.

Richard Sorensen

In regard to Mark Nemeth’s November/December “Mark, My Words” column, his response to Benjamin, who had two blowouts on his fifth-wheel, overlooked one important factor: Goodyear Marathon tires are rated for 65 mph, and he reported 70 mph driving on the Interstates.

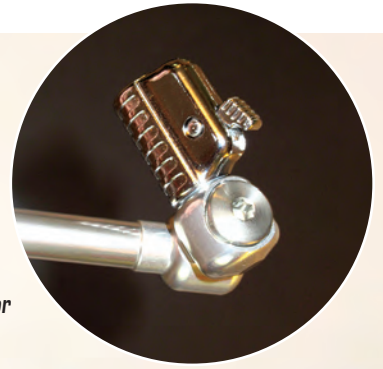
Yes, debris, under inflation and age can contribute to tire failures, but the speed rating is there for a reason.

Tom Ketchum #115554

Lightning™ Tire Air Chuck (T-Series), Open Flow, 1/4", F-Npt

THIS TIRE PRESSURE GAUGE TIP THAT APPEARED IN THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER "TIPS" COLUMN INCLUDED A PHOTO OF THE TIRE GAUGE; HOWEVER, A PHOTO OF THE TIRE CHUCK WAS NOT INCLUDED. A REVISION OF THE SUBMISSION AND PHOTOS ARE INCLUDED BELOW.

-Editor



Elitepro™ Digital Tire Pressure Gauge, 100 Psi, Professional Accuracy

TIRE PRESSURE GAUGE

I just read your product review on the TireMinder pressure gauge in the September/October issue. I've had a hard time measuring the pressure of my dually tires. Getting something to reach, and at just the right angle, proved difficult. And then, if I managed to, I had to press it just right or I'd lose a lot of air.

I found something that solves all those problems, and is rugged and accurate to +/- 0.5psi: The Jaco gauge and tire chuck are sold separately and can be found online at www.jacosuperiorproducts.com/products

It's really the tire chuck that makes the difference. I just push it on, and it locks with next to no air loss. The chuck rotates 360 degrees, meaning I can match the valve stem angle precisely. The gauge has a bleed valve, so I can overfill a little and bleed out the excess. When I'm done, I simply press the button on the chuck and it releases, again with next to no air loss. This is a really solid, well-engineered product. You could keep your Tire Minder gauge and just replace the chuck. Though because of the bleed valve, I'd go with the Jaco gauge too. The gauge and the special chuck run about \$30 each.

Jascha Lee #154626



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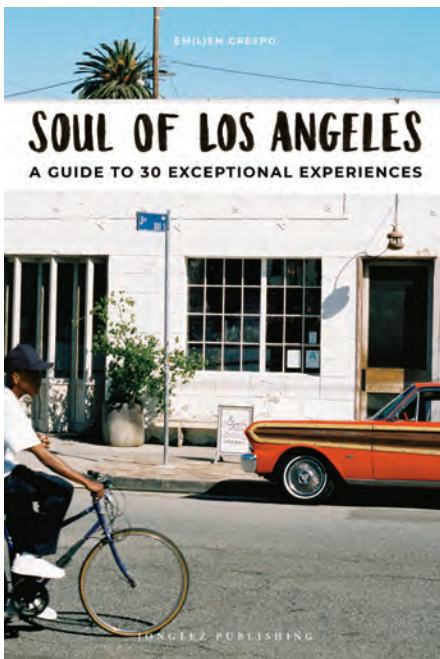
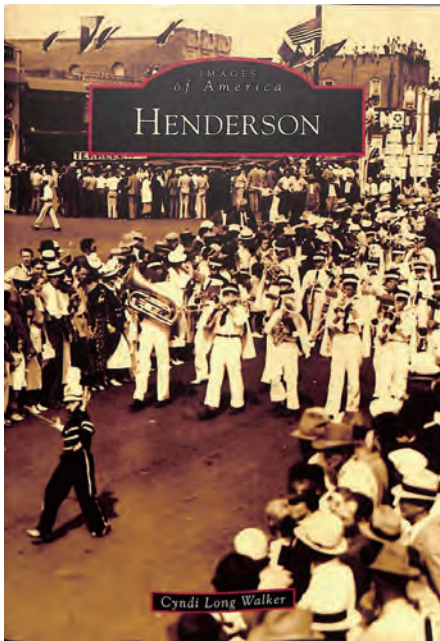
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HOMETOWN SECRETS REVEALED IN GUIDEBOOKS

Discover secrets and hidden gems in local communities

With so many travel restrictions in place, many of us are choosing to get to know our local communities better.

For my own city — Henderson, Texas — I started with a guidebook included in Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series simply titled, *Henderson*. As I looked at the photos, some a century old, I began to fall in love with my city of 14,000 all over again.

For more than 20 years, Arcadia Publishing has reconnected people to their community, their neighbors and their past by offering a curbside view of hometown history and often forgotten aspects of American life. They offer a huge selection of 11,450 books, each composed in a pictorial format and with more than 200 vintage photos and postcards along with captions. Featured are important events, people and places.

Readers can type in their zip code and find books pertinent to their community and up to 50 miles away. Other books are sorted by subheads, including heritage, sports, places, history, business, government, transportation, culture, culinary, structures and reference.

Henderson

Henderson is actually two years older than the state of Texas. Founded in 1843, it is named for James Pinckney Henderson, who later became the first governor of Texas. Two men donating land for the city were W.B. Ochiltree and General James Smith.

The first wooden courthouse was completed in 1849 in the center of the city square. The square is actually a rectangle with the longer sides running east and west. During this time, the commissioners

also donated land and money for churches and schools to be built. The Henderson Female College, approved by the Texas Legislature in 1856, and the Henderson Male and Female College existed in the 1870s until after the turn of the century.

In 1874, the Henderson and Overton Branch Railroad Company was chartered to build 16 miles of track from Overton to Henderson. At the turn of the century, the branch railroad was sold to Missouri-Pacific Railroad, now known as Union Pacific. It is still in operation.

The first courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1878. During the Reconstruction era after the Civil War, brick masons and pottery makers settled in Rusk County. The second courthouse was built of brick in 1878 and served the community until 1926. It was an ornate building located in the center of the city square.

During the mid-to-late 1800s, there were many buildings built by Dave and Logan Howard, who built the first brick home in Henderson. It is named the Howard Dickinson House and is open for tours.

From 1883 to 1895, the Howard brothers built seven stores on the city square, five of which are still in use today.

In 1930, C.M. "Dad" Joiner brought in the Daisy Bradford



#3 Discovery Well six miles northwest of Henderson. As a result, during the 1930's Depression, the City of Henderson experienced a population growth from 2,000 to more than 10,000 people in just a few months. The discovery of oil in East Texas was and continues to be critical to the area's economy.

As the population increased, the City of Henderson prospered. In 1986, Henderson's downtown area was designated a National Register Historic District.

After looking at all the photographs in the guidebook, I was anxious to explore the city square and find the locations pictured in the book.

Major City Guidebooks

You are probably more familiar with guidebooks dealing with major cities, but one publisher, Jonglez Publishing, offers a series of "secret" books, including *Secret Brooklyn*, *Secret New Orleans*, *Secret Montreal* and *Secret Mexico City*. For anyone who thinks they know a city or simply wants to experience areas not over-touristed, these guidebooks are excellent resources.

Each "secret" guidebook offers dozens of interesting destinations within a city.

For example, in *Secret Brooklyn*, there is mention of jazz concerts presented on weekends in a stately brownstone. Located in the Sankofa Aban Bed and Breakfast on Macon Street, the concerts take place in

the parlor. According to the book, rooms are filled with antique detail including Victorian woodwork, stained glass windows and vintage furnishings.

Another series that Jonglez Publishing offers is "soul of" guidebooks, including *Soul of Los Angeles*, *A Guide to 30 Exceptional Experiences*. These experiences include exploring Malibu Beach where movie stars started buying homes in the 1930s, forming the "Malibu movie colony." Or maybe you'd like to shop for produce with local chefs or find Elvis and George Harrison's peaceful getaway located there.

DK Publishing also offers more than 300 travel titles. Among their offerings are "top 10" titles, including domestic destinations such as *Top 10 Boston*, *Top 10 New York* and *Top 10 San Francisco*.

Examples of regional and coffee table books include *USA National Parks* and *Back Roads California*.

Whether you're wanting to rediscover your hometown or research a future getaway, these excellent guidebooks can help make planning fun and offer valuable information for your next getaway.

For more information:

Arcadia Publishing books are available at www.arcadiapublishing.com. Jonglez Publishing titles are available at www.jonglezpublishing.com or www.amazon.com. DK Publishing books are available at www.dk.com

By Marilyn Jones, Guest Contributor

WHEELING AND THE WEST VIRGINIA PANHANDLE

Travelers crossing West Virginia's panhandle may speed along Interstate-70 and not realize there are many reasons to stop for an afternoon or a day or two and enjoy the area's many attractions and historic sites.

Wheeling was founded in 1769 by Colonel Ebenezer Zane. By the early 1880s, trade along the Ohio River and the creation of the National Road, the nation's first roadway, helped the city grow. Wheeling became known as the "gateway to the West."

Wheeling was loyal to the federal government during the Civil War, and the State of West Virginia was born here. The first convention of the delegates from the counties of northwestern Virginia met in Wheeling, on May 13, 1861, and inaugurated the movement which finally resulted in the admission of West Virginia into the Union as a state, on June 20, 1863.

Because of a thriving industrial economy and large working population, Wheeling became the richest city per capita in the nation at the end of the 19th century. This is evident in the city's grand architecture. Wheeling has more Victorian buildings, including lovely homes, than any other city in America. One Victorian landmark is Centre Market dating to the late 19th century.

Bustling with activity and color, the market is still welcoming visitors to eat and shop.

A walking tour of the city is a proper introduction to Wheeling. It starts at Eckhart House in the Victoria Old Town and is offered daily May through October.

Oglebay Park

More than a century ago, the tradition of generous hospitality began at the summer estate of Earl W. Oglebay. Today, the natural beauty of Oglebay's property has expanded to include 2,000 acres of year-round recreational activities and accommodations nestled among the property's beauty.

In 1888, A. Allen Howell, the father of Sallie Howell Oglebay, owned the farm. When Earl W. Oglebay purchased it from his mother-in-law's estate in 1900, the property was only a 25-acre tract.

For 25 years, Mr. Oglebay spared no expense or effort in turning the property into a country estate and a model farm. He rebuilt the mansion and added beautiful landscaping and a network of roads.

Upon his death in 1926, Mr. Oglebay willed his property to the people of Wheeling for as long as they "shall operate it for public recreation." The property was accepted as Oglebay Park on behalf of the people and placed under the governing hand of the Wheeling Park Commission.

Swan boats at Oglebay Park.

PHOTO COURTESY WHEELING CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



Improvements were made. An outdoor swimming pool, golf center, tennis courts and a riding academy were added, along with a golf driving range, picnic shelters, horse show ring, a nature center and museums.

Today Oglebay Resort and Conference Center offers a myriad of activities for overnight and day guests, including Good Zoo, which houses several rare or endangered species and is dedicated to conservation and breeding programs. There are also several restaurants.

During the holidays, Winter Festival of Lights, with lights and displays now spanning 300 acres, is a popular wintertime attraction. This is in conjunction with Wheeling's Festival of Lights driving tour.

Marshall County

Just south of Wheeling is Marshall County, an outdoor wonderland including fishing, boating, hunting, horseback riding and hiking. Add to this the area's interesting history and you can easily spend a day or two exploring.

The Trail of Tears stretches across the mountain and through the wooded land of Lake Guntersville State Park. Visitors can walk along this portion of the trail where Native Americans were forced to leave their homeland during the 1830s. Pottery, arrowheads and other items left behind on the trail can be viewed at Guntersville Museum.

Two communities, Albertville and Arab, are also rich with 19th century history. Both Albertville Museum and Arab Historic Village help guests discover this history.

In Moundville is Prabhupada's Palace of Gold, founded in the late 1960s by the followers of Hare Krishna. It was planned as a simple residence for Krishna's spiritual leader, Srila Prabhupada, but it grew into a palace. Crystal chandeliers, marble floors, stained glass windows, mirrored ceilings, gold leaf and semi-precious stones accent its architecture. Surrounded by fountains, statues, colorful gardens and a lily pond, it looks completely out of place in rural West Virginia.

One stop you won't find on your tourist website is in Glen Dale. This small town hugs the Ohio River and is home to one of two Appalachian Outreach locations.

Appalachian Outreach was the brainchild of Rose Hart. In 2001, concerned for the victims of a devastating flood, she managed to collect 45 tons of furnishings, supplies, building materials and \$6,000 to help the mostly coal mining towns.

Hart and Diana Stout talked about and prayed about the needs of so many West Virginians. The following February, they filed for a 501.c3 nonprofit status and Appalachian Outreach was born. Hart explained that mainstream charities help those in urban settings. This outreach helps residents living in rural areas. In 2019, more than 22,000 families were served.

Hart says anyone is welcome to stop by, learn about the program and make donations. Items needed include baby supplies, children/adult clothing, household supplies and toiletries. Drop-off hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday, at 13 W View Lane, in Glen Dale.

If you go: From its natural beauty and a palatial palace to Victorian splendor and historic sites, Ohio and Marshall Counties are great places to stop on your way to somewhere else, or as your main vacation or getaway destination. For more information: Ohio County: www.wheelingcvb.com, Marshall County: www.visitmoundville.com, Appalachian Outreach: www.appalachianoutreaching.org

By Marilyn Jones, Guest Contributor

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.

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.

OFF-ROADING



We travel with our ATV on a platform, which is mounted on the top of our truck. This photo was taken while boondocking in Moapa Valley, in Nevada. PHOTO BY JERRY AND LINDA BERMAN #119689



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.

MJ21 (Due January 10) Historic Landmarks

JA21 (Due March 10) Roadside Market

SO21 (Due May 10) Night life

ND21 (Due May 10) Hidden gem



While my wife, Wendy, and I were staying at Pismo State Beach Oceano Campground, I decided to take our 1973 VW Beetle out on the beach at sunset. PHOTO BY MIKE LAWRENCE #96889

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Give YOURSELF The Gift of CARE

Waymon's Story | Waymon and his late wife, Patricia, originally lived in Austin, Texas. After retirement, they traveled by motorhome, down to the Valley for six months every year. After Patricia's dementia progressed into Alzheimer's disease, Waymon and his daughter began looking for a continuing care facility to care for Patricia and to also be their new home. After reviewing facilities in Lufkin, Texas, they decided to sign up for the Escapes RV Club mail service, based an hour south in Livingston. Before leaving the park, they took a tour of the CARE facility and learned about the resident and adult day care programs. Waymon said, "This is a no-brainer; this is where we need to be." The following week, he pulled the motorhome into CARE site #30, and they became official CARE residents. He also signed Patricia up for the Adult Day Care Program. During the day, while Patricia received professional care, Waymon had time for golf or his own doctor appointments. They were surrounded by love and support from staff and fellow residents which continued, even though Patricia passed away in 2012.

Shirley's Story | Shirley and her late husband, Al, had traveled to 49 states before making their way to Escapes CARE Center in Livingston. Shirley became a CARE volunteer in 2004 and, in 2011, became a paid staff member as the laundry attendant. In 2013, Shir-




ley took her final retirement. She and Al then became residents of CARE to take advantage of the services instead of providing them. Shirley's eyes filled with tears of joy as she recalled the many memories she has of volunteering, employment and residency. She, too, found herself surrounded by love and support from staff and fellow residents, which she embraced, especially after Al passed away in 2014.

Their Love Story

Christmas of 2015, Waymon bought a new car and asked several fellow lady residents to see holiday lights around town. The glow of Christmas lights not only warmed the evening streets but also the hearts of Waymon and Shirley. The two began spending more time together and in March 2016, they married. It was a great year for them and also for CARE! There were three marriages that year among CARE residents. Humorously, "Come to CARE, Love is in the air" became a slogan for a while. Waymon (age 89) and Shirley (age 80) Sinclair #109810 have enjoyed cruises, tours and traveled to Montana in the motorhome; It was the only state Shirley had not visited when traveling. They enjoy driving throughout Texas in their Mustang convertible and riding their Gold Wing trike. Shirley sometimes even takes the trike for solo rides. These two lovebirds are examples of good living at Escapes CARE!

Article and photo by Crystal Saulters #149374

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 per week for four weeks, driving residents and taking phone calls. Donations (via www.paypal.com/givingfund, www.iGive.com, www.escapes.com/store, or through a bequest in your will) all help support Escapes CARE. For further details, call 936-327-4256, e-mail carefd@escapes.com, 155 Care Center Dr, Livingston, TX 77351 or visit www.escapescare.org |   

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SEPTEMBER 27—OCTOBER 1, 2021

Bar Harbor, Maine, Price Range: \$895–\$1,295

The best time to visit Maine is in September after the summer crowds have left, but before the temperatures drop. Maine landscapes are quaint and beautiful, and its coastal beauty is stunning!

Feel the crisp morning air and see Mother Nature’s abundant beauty in the vibrant colors of the fall leaves. As the autumn leaves grace the hillsides and mountaintops, you have a painted scenery that is unmatched anywhere else in the world.

In the evenings, sit outside and watch the vibrant colors of the sunset spread across the horizon.

Pack binoculars and watch native and migratory birds such as bald eagles, osprey, peregrine falcons, shorebirds, warblers and flycatchers, to name a few.

Visit Acadia National Park with stops at Thunder Hole and Cadillac Mountain, the highest point on the East Coast.

Learn about an ancient fjord called Somes Sound, a major interest at Acadia National Park. The Sound presses deep into the quiet, pristine beauty of Mount Desert Island, nearly splitting the island in two.

You’ll hear stories about sea lions, porpoises and whales and watch for their graceful appearances out across the water. Learn about the lighthouses nearby.

Board a lobster boat and have a unique, enjoyable tour of Bar Harbor.

You can’t travel to Maine without a lobster bake! And there will be other food to enjoy if you don’t like lobster!

Remember to bring your camera for this wonderful fall foliage HOP!

UPCOMING HOP EVENTS

BIG BEND AREA— WINTER HOME BASE HOP

FEBRUARY 1– MARCH 2, 2021

Big Bend National Park, Texas
\$70 per person

MOAB OUTDOOR ADVENTURE HOP

MAY 27–JUNE 1, 2021

Moab, Utah
Price Range: \$655–\$955

BALLOON FIESTA HOP

OCTOBER 2–10, 2021

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Option #1: October 02–07, 2021, \$999–\$1110

Option #2: October 07–11, 2021, \$989–\$1095

Option #3: October 02–11, 2021, \$1245–\$1355

ROSE PARADE HOP

DECEMBER 27, 2021–JANUARY 3, 2022

Pasadena, California

Price Range: TBD

TWO BOOKS FOR NEW AND SEASONED RVERS

By MARCELLA GAUTHIER #12371

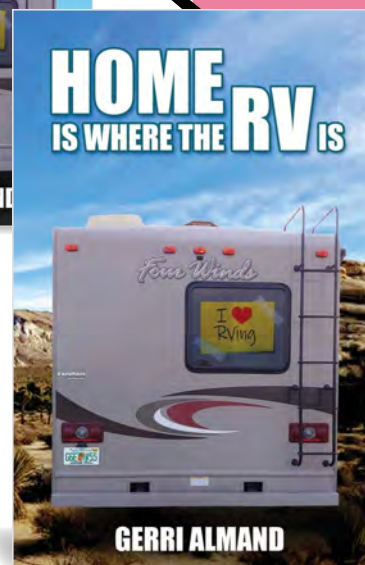
These two books by Gerri Almand should probably be read in sequence. The first book, *The Reluctant RV Wife*, is when Gerri is introduced to the RVing life. The second book, *Home is Where the RV Is*, follows as the recently published sequel.

Gerri is a wonderful writer who can easily see the humor in almost any situation. Even the back injury that starts out her second book allows her to imagine a humorous outcome with her and Michael's injuries, knee replacements, shoulder surgery and the usual aches and pains of their senior years. I might be giving away a secret when I say that the hand-printed sign taped to the rear window of the motorhome in the first book reads "captive wife inside," which gives way to a hand-printed sign in the rear window on the cover of the second book to read "I 'heart' RVing," Gerri takes us along for an enjoyable ride with some heartfelt complaints, with getting used to changing her ideas of how things should be, new friendships and the discovery of serene contemplation and acceptance. A fun read for long-time RVers who may recognize their own experiences. Chuckle along with Gerri and help introduce newbies to the RV life. Some of Gerri's writings can be found on her blog at www.GerriAlmand.com.

THE RELUCTANT RV WIFE

GERRI ALMAND #159441 • BROWN POSEY PRESS 2019 • ISBN: 978-1620061473
PAPERBACK: \$16.27 • KINDLE: \$6.99

Gerri Almand was quite comfortable in her retirement home in Tampa, Florida, tending to her award-winning Master Gardener property, 200 orchid plants and beloved writing career, when her husband, Michael, passed a folded section of the Sunday newspaper across the table to her. There on the page was an advertisement for a local RV dealership massive sale. Gerri had never considered the RV life as she had a full life now, but her husband wanted to go see what was available at the dealership. That was the beginning of Gerri's reluctant RVing life. Gerri is an introspective writer willing to share her thoughts, apprehensions and observations of beginning life in the motorhome. She began with trepidation and fears, the anxious "what ifs." But she and Michael have a loving relationship that allows them to share their thoughts freely and learn to compromise. Whether it is the length of time a pair of jeans can be worn before being thrown in the laundry bag or to risk another disastrous dinner in the new slow cooker or admit defeat and go to a nearby restaurant. As they learn how to manage their hopes and dreams with the reality of life on the road, Gerri deals with the vagaries of RV life, flat tires, broken awnings and numerous other problems, by becoming calm and making the best of any situation. A problem or delay on the journey meant having more time to write or to lie in a hammock slung between two trees.



HOME IS WHERE THE RV IS

GERRI ALMAND #159441 • BROWN POSEY PRESS 2019
ISBN: 978-1620064276
PAPERBACK \$19.95 • KINDLE: \$6.99

This book begins when Gerri seriously injures her back just four days before they were to begin a six-month-long roadtrip. This brings her to the realization that things happen, and it's never too late to have additional adventures. Michael and Gerri hit the road continuing with their RVing life and seeing the beauty and constant change required, as they downsize and simplify their life, we share their joys as they become full-time RVers. Gerri's musings about dealing with over 200 orchid plants and cleaning out the closets of a lifetime of accumulation are problems familiar to most of us considering changes in our lives. 🚐



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ESCAPEES NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS HOLIDAY CLOSURES FOR 2021

The Escapees RV Club National Headquarters observes national holidays to coincide with post office closures. For your convenience, the dates for 2021 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 18**—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- **February 15**—President's Day
- **April 2**—Good Friday (Easter)
- **May 31**—Memorial Day
- **July 5**—Independence Day
- **September 6**—Labor Day
- **October 11**—Columbus Day
- **November 11**—Veteran's Day
- **November 25 & 26**—Thanksgiving Day (2 days)
- **December 24**—Christmas Eve
- **December 31**—New Year's Eve





ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING

July 18–23, 2021

Sweetwater Events Complex

HAUL YOUR HOME

It's time to start making your summer plans to join fellow Escapees as we circle the wagons at the 60th Escapade "Take 2," July 18–23, 2021, Rock Springs, Wyoming.

Since the pandemic kept us apart in 2020, we're even more excited to get together in 2021. What better place to be than Wyoming in the summertime? As always, this year's Escapade promises something for everyone, including educational seminars, exciting nightly entertainment, happy hours and socials, our annual farewell street festival and much more! This is the largest, most anticipated yearly gathering of Escapees, and you won't want to miss out.

The community of Rock Springs and the great staff at the Sweetwater Events Complex are excited to have us! They'll be ready to roll out the red carpet to help make Escapade the best event it can be.

If you're a first-time attendee to Escapade, a meet-and-greet social is planned just for you, to get your week off to the best start possible. You'll soon see why so many people return year after year. For those of you who are returning attendees, we can't wait to welcome you back! Escapade offers the opportunity to gather with all your Escapee and Xscaper friends for five fun-filled days of support, networking, education, community, entertainment and most of all—fun!

There's so much to see and do in Wyoming!

Wrap your summer travel plans around Escapade and consider spending some time in the beautiful state of Wyoming. Not only are there plenty of places to explore and history to discover right there in the Rock Springs area; many of North America's most popular destinations are within a day's drive out of Sweetwater County. A few of them are Dinosaur National Monument, Grand Tetons National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Fossil

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND DETAILS CALL 936-327-8873 OR VISIT

WWW.ESCAPEES.COM/ESCAPADE

WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM

Butte National Monument, Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Jackson Hole, Mt. Rushmore National Park and Devils Tower National Monument.

Escapade welcomes everyone!

Escapade is open to Escapees members and non-members alike. If you know someone new to RVing, encourage them to attend so they can experience the sense of community the Escapees RV Club is all about. Many folks come to 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's hotels and attending as a weekly walk-in. Several hotels are located close to the event.

As always, kids are welcome!

Our children's program, Kidscapade, will be happy to include your child/children/grandchildren. Kids enjoy learning topics pertaining to the RV lifestyle while

spending quality time with their RVing buddies in a fun, safe environment. As always, Kidscapade is available at no extra cost.

Call or go online to reserve today.

Many full-hook-up RV sites and a limited number of dry-camping sites are available. Weekly walk-ins, early arrival and extended stays are also available.

Haul your home to where the buffalo roam and the deer and the antelope play. Let's have some fun on the range at Escapade in Wyoming!

Rest assured that all precautions will be taken into consideration to make this event as safe as possible. All current COVID-19 guidelines will be addressed and adhered to based on the Wyoming Health Department recommendations. 🚚

Duane and Jean Mathes #115955, Escapade Directors

Please note: Due to ongoing COVID concerns, the Escapade originally planned for Tucson, Arizona, in March has been canceled.

FREE AND LOW-COST PARKING FINDS

Compiled by **GUY GIPSON** #84383. Download the entire online directory at www.daysenddirectory.com.



Douglas Municipal Golf Course
Campground, Douglas, Arizona.
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF DOUGLAS.

The *Day's End Directory* is a valuable tool to help you save money and find safe overnight parking recommendations from fellow Escapees RVing members. These parking selections highlight seasonal boondocking options for your RV travels.

ARIZONA

Benson: BD, FR 4011 (BLM before NF boundary). Free. 3 mi W of town, I-10 x302, go 12.5 mi S on SR 90 to MM 302.3, TR (W) on FR 4011/Dry Canyon Rd (one-lane rough rocky gravel/dirt, check 1st to see if your rig fits). From S: from jct SR 82 and SR 90 (sm town of Whetstone) go 6 mi N on SR 90, TL (W) on FR 4011. Three level areas on S side, each with room for 2 lg rigs. At 0.3 mi, 0.6 mi and 0.9 mi. Any size rig. Good Verizon. Great views to valley on E and hills to W. Rd gets very rocky and bumpy after 0.6 mi. No turn-around except at BD sites. **Dennis G Bowden #133518**

Bowie: Alaska RV Park FHU. \$20 (ask for \$18 Escapees Day's End rate). 1 mi E of town, I-10 x366, S side. N32.31486 W109.44917. Park visible from exit. **Chas Wilder #88717**

Dateland: Pkg lot, BD. I-8 x78, N side. N32.83637 W113.35763. Former commercial site, just slabs. **Earl and Linda Hylton #49643**

Dos Cabezas: Bonita Canyon CG, Chiricahua NM. 25 very short unlevel gravel BD sites, tables. W spigots, flush toilets. \$20, S/A Pass 1/2. Jct SR 186, SR 181 and Bonita Canyon Rd (which goes E to Chiricahua NM) go 2.7 mi on Bonita Canyon Rd, TL to stay on Bonita Canyon Rd for 0.1 mi, TL into CG. 32.01143 -109.35511. Shaded sites, steep dip thru cemented wash in/out of CG, 29' max length in NP. Hiking. **Larry and Betty Malcom #122042**

Douglas: Douglas Municipal Golf Course CG. 28 FHU sites, 30/50-A E, rest rooms and showers for RVers only. \$16.50, \$82.50/wk, \$296.75/mo (incl taxes). From Douglas go NE on SR 80 towards NM. Just past 22nd St, TL (N) on N Leslie Canyon Rd. TR (E) on E Fairway Dr (sign missing, watch for "Golf" sign, at row of apt bldgs), follow curve up to gravel pkg lot (31.37493 -109.54107). Some long-term renters. Spacing between sites fairly generous. Tall trees along N-S fence provide PM shade to sites there and a 2nd row of sites is away from fence/trees. Verizon good. **Dennis G Bowden #133518**

Lake Havasu City: Dispersed camping (State Trust Land). No facilities. Permit required (\$15/yr/person, \$20/yr/family, purchase online tinyurl.com/y5f7hf67). S of town on SR 95, MM 176, E side, across from Sara Park Rough rds but lots of lg rigs use it. Unhitch toad before going in. Great views, incl of Winter Blast in Feb (rigs start saving spots two weeks before). Good Verizon. **Ed and Jill Iteen #94918**

Lake Havasu City: Unnamed areas N of town off SR 95 (map shows as BLM). Dispersed camping, no designated spots. No facilities. Free. Prob 14-day limit (no signs) within 28 days. MM 195, 34.66258 -114.31412, directly across SR 95 from Havasu Heights Blvd, W side of hwy, dirt rd goes down to lg open area with stone firings. Do not take lg rig on rds going further from this area. Also MM 196, 34.64860 -114.32067, rd goes 100' E from SR 95, right at crest of a summit. Wide well-maint gravel rd. Areas to park along rd before fence. **Bruce Ratcliff #48001**

Marble Canyon: BLM BD. Free. 14-day limit. Great views of Vermillion Cliffs. US 89A MM 539.4 (1.5 mi W of Navajo Bridge). Lg unpaved mostly level pkg lot/pullout (BLM). No facilities. On N side of hwy, just W of sign stating entering BLM area. 36.81202 -111.6574. WandD at Lees Ferry CG. Room for 6 to 7 lg RVs. Good solar. Good Verizon. Quiet, little night traffic. Gas sta, PO, trading post within a mile. Limited groceries. Nice view. **Colleen Hunt #112824**

Mescal: Quick Pic Chevron sta, fairly lg level gravel pkg lot. No facilities. Free. No stay limit posted. I-10 x297, go N on Mescal Rd, immed TR (E) on W Meadowlark Ln, TL on N Oak Dr. Lot is behind sta. Trucks use. **Chas Wilder #88717**

Safford: BD (BLM). No facilities. Free. 14-day limit, enforced. Go 19 mi S of town on US 191, just past MM 103, TR (W) on dirt rd over cattle guard. Sign says "Oak Draw." Continue 500' to site. 32.57693 -109.6845. Flat, level, OK for 2-3 lg rigs. Park in circle or back in closer to the wash. Amazing views, great solar, minor hwy noise. Good Verizon. Birding and mtn biking. Elev 4052'. **Mark and Sue Bryer #86611**

Tonopah: Saddle Mtn dispersed camping area (BLM). Established sites. No facilities. Free. 14-day limit EB from Quartzsite, I-10 x81, go S on Salome Rd, turn immed R (W) on Harquahala Rd, makes sharp turn to S, go 5 mi, TL (E) on Courthouse Rd, go 6 mi. Soon after MM 12, after BLM signboard and BLM Rd 8209 sign on R, start to look for dirt access rds to R (S). 33.46457 -113.05547. Or, WB on I-10, x94 at Tonopah, go 3 mi S on 411th Ave, TR (W) on W Salome hwy, go 5.2 mi, TL on Courthouse Rd, go 1.9 mi, TL (S) on dirt rds. 33.46466 -113.04341. At least 4-5 access rds. Some sites OK for lg rigs. Good Verizon. Beautiful area, many places to hike and climb. **Mark Borseth and Patsi Green #118391**

Willcox: Days Inn, vacant lot. No facilities. Free. O/N OK, ask permission. I-10 x340, go E on Rex Allen, 1st R on Bisbee, immed R behind Carl's Jr, near Safeway. Packed gravel in front of Days Inn. Some pot holes, go slow. Room for 2-3 RVs. **Margaret Murray #103630**

CALIFORNIA

Atascadero: Lg gravel/dirt pullout. Free. No posted restrictions. 5 mi S of town on SB US 101 (5 mi N of Santa Margarita). N35.43218 W120.63647. Divided highway so access SB only. NB, go past it by 0.8 mi, take x216A (Santa Barbara Rd), and re-enter SB on US 101. 4 mi further S to x211 to go back NB. Room for many lg RVs. **Steve Bufty #38366**

Calexico: Out-of-business Toys-R-Us, pkg lot. No prohibitive signs. I-8 x118, go 4 mi S on SR 111 toward Calexico, TL at light on Jasper Rd, then immed R on Rockwood Ave (frontage road), go 1/2 mi to Toys-R-Us on L, just N of Walmart (2540 Rockwood Ave). Used by trucks. **Chas Wilder #88717**

Cayucos: Lg gravel pkg lot. No facilities. Free. No signs. SR 1 x285, go NE on Cayucos Dr, lot is immed on R. N35.4533 W120.9022. Room for 4 or more RVs. **Bob Fitzgerald #24256**

Lost Hills: St pkg, Aloma St. From I-5 x278, go W on SR 46 to 1st st (Aloma St, between Chevron and Shell stations), TL (S), go to end of Aloma St (cul de sac). Very few trucks. **Jim Nelson and Rene Agredano #103274**

Temecula: Dripping Springs CG (NF). 33 sites, tables, fire rings. W, vault toilets. \$15, S/A Pass 1/2. 14-day limit. Open all yr. Some sites reservable. I-15 x58 in town, go 10.6 mi S on SR 79 to CG sign, TR 33.46521 -116.97104. If turn-around loop at end of CG is locked there is another loop in the upper equestrian CG even though sign says limited to 20' trailers. Paved CG loop and sites. Some pull-thru sites, most sites very short, some double sites (2x cost). No Verizon, limited AT&T. Hiking trails. **Larry and Betty Malcom #122042**

FLORIDA

Alva: W P Franklin North CG (COE). 29 paved E/W sites, tables with shelters, firepit/grills. Rest rooms, showers. \$30, S/A Pass 1/2. 14-day limit within 30. Open all yr. I-75 x141, go 2 mi E on SR 80, TL (N) on

SR 31, go 4 mi, TR (E) on SR 78, go 5 mi, TR (S) on N Franklin Lock Rd, follow signs to CG. 26.72417 -81.69278. Some sites fit rigs over 35'. CG is basically an island in the Caloosahatchee Riv. Boat ramp, fishing pier. Good kayaking. Good Verizon. 239-694-8770. **John and Bonnie Archer #113438**

Bowling Green: Hardee Lake Park E and non-E sites. Rest rooms, showers (non-campers \$2). Non-E sites \$15, \$69/wk, + tax. E sites \$20 (50A + \$3), \$100/wk (50A + \$15), + tax. Over 2 guests \$2 each, \$10/wk, + tax. Reservations 863-767-1100. Go 7.5 mi W from town on CR 664, TL (S) on CR 663, go 1/4 mi, TR (W) on Ollie Roberts Rd, go 1.3 mi to Park on R Or, from Wauchula go 3 mi N on US 17, TL (W) on SR 62, go 7.5 mi, TR on CR 663, go 1.3 mi, TL on Ollie Roberts Rd, go 1.3 mi to Park on R 5502 Ollie Roberts Rd. Fires OK, collect downed wood only. Verizon 3 bars 4G. 863-781-1053. Satellite-OK **Dave and Ann Ed #62492**

Land O`Lakes: Starkey Wilderness Preserve, Serenova Tract (SW FL Water Mgmt District). Equestrian sites, useable for RVs, (horse not required). Tables, fire rings. Nonpotable W, port-a-john. Free reservation must be requested in advance by mail or Website, up to a wk to receive, see tinyurl.com/y5h6daak. Corner of Hays Rd and Hwy 52E. 14900 SR 52. N28 19.7639 W82 34.1484. **Joyce Findlay #112256**

Panama City: Moose Lodge. 4 level 30-50A E/W sites. D. \$12.50. Moose membership not required, call Todd 850-866-8679 for arrangements. N side of town, 739 E 24th Plaza, between RT 77 and 231, N side of st. Unshaded. Very quiet **Dave and Ann Ed #62492**

Perry: Goose Pasture CG, Aucilla WMA (Suwannee Riv Water Mgmt District). 12-15 sites, tables, fire rings. Portajohn, D, trash cans. Free, self register. No reservations. 10-day limit, 4 days out. Go 22 mi W from town on US 98, TR (N) on Powell Hammock Rd, go 4 mi (becomes hard packed dirt rd), TL (W) on Goose Pasture Rd (dirt), go 2.75 mi, tract is on both sides of rd. Continue 1 mi W to CG at end of rd. 30.20284 -83.96789. 850-265-3676. Boat ramp.

Punta Gorda: Deep Creek Preserve (SW FL Water Mgmt District). Equestrian sites, useable for RVs (horse not required). Tables, fire rings/grills. Nonpotable W, port a john. Free reservation must be requested in advance by mail or website, up to a wk to receive, see tinyurl.com/y5h6daak. 6 mi N of town, I-75 x170, go 3 mi NE on Kings Hwy/CR 769, TR (E) on Peace River St, go 0.2 mi, on R. 27.0611 -82.02176. tinyurl.com/hp4cnbv **Joyce Findlay #112256**

Saint Augustine: Double Gate Rd Entrance to Matanzas NF pkg lot. No facilities. Free. No restrictive signs. S of town, I-95 x305, go 2.1 mi E on SR 206, TR (S) on US 1, go 2.9 mi, TL (E) on Double Gate Rd at Matanzas NF sign, pkg lot on L. 29.71672 -81.30212. Or, NB take I-95 x298, go 3.8 mi N on US 1, TR (E) on Double Gate Rd. Grassy/dirt field for equestrian use/pkg, soft/muddy after heavy rain. Some US 1 noise. **R A Jefferies #139025**

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge: Farr CG, Baton Rouge Equestrian Center. BD sites. Bathrooms, showers, laundry, D. \$10. Pay at office Mon-Fri, equestrian ctr on weekends. Follow directions, not GPS. I-10 x158 (College), go 5 mi S and W (College changes to Lee, then to Brightside Dr) until you reach a T jct with River Rd. TL, go 2 blks to CG entrance on L RR at Brightside Dr is old levee, steep hump, bus/RV could bottom out. Also 188 E/W sites, way over fee criteria. Good Verizon and AT&T. Very quiet. Paved bike path into city. Easy access to State Capitol. Old plantations, museums very close. Watch horses practice in corral/pasture next to camp. **Rick Schafer #81691**

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

ORDER THE DAY'S END, GOOD GUYS AND BOONDOCKERS JOURNAL DIRECTORY BY VISITING WWW.DAYSENDIRECTORY.COM

RVers' Opinions and Advice from the Road

Submissions that are sent by e-mail can be directed to DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM.



Meditation

The article on meditation, in the November/December issue was interesting. However, there is an additional method for those who are willing to take a chance and want to get healthy.

I am 73 years of age. A lot of us suffer from arthritis which is caused by inflammation and a weakened immune system. Medications are readily available but some cause more damage than help to our body.

In February 2020, I started on the Wim Hof method that involves breathing, cold immersion and commitment. I have experienced positive results practicing this method for the past several months.

You can find useful information on Youtube.com regarding this method. I have reduced my inflammation, strengthened my immune system and gained a lot of energy that I've lost due to my advancing age. It's great information for those willing to get their health back. There is a free app (Wim Hof) that I use for my breathing. It works!

Domingo Davila #103810

KEEP IT SIMPLE SOLO SENIORS (KISSS)

Approaching 80 years young, and with 30 years of RVing experience, including seven solo road trips to Alaska, I occasionally practice minimalist camping or intentional boondocking. My goal is to stay prepared for quarantines, hurricane evacuation, waiting out repairs, unexpected mechanical problems or a blown tire. Could I survive for a week or more without amenities? What if I had no hookups: electricity, water, sewer or a generator? No way to purchase food?

To practice survivalist skills for emergencies where there are no hookups or roadside help, I view my RV as a hard-walled tent, with no conveniences, as if I am "lost" in the wilderness, and consider my need for safety, shelter, water and food. I'll share with you my minimalist resources.

SAFETY FIRST A motorhome is safer than a trailer if you are isolated. Just lock the doors. Water and food are handy while they last. And you have your potty. Leave an itinerary with a responsible person. If you don't check in, someone can check on you. A cell phone is your lifeline. Have an external battery, cigarette charger and/or solar charger. Texas Road Service number is on the back of my license. Check yours. Carry an atlas. Study it before you start out. Know how to locate yourself on the cell phone's GPS, and determine exactly where you are. Know how to call your insurance roadside service. A first-aid kit is a must. Keep it updated, label medicine bottles and keep in a plastic bag inside the refrigerator, in addition to a weekly medicine organizer. Pepper spray, wasp spray, a shrill whistle or air horn offer personal protection.

SHELTER Open vents in warm weather. Use a battery-operated fan. Have extra clothing, blankets or a sleeping bag for cold weather.

PARKING If you can't reach an Escapees park, relatives or friends, use public access parking lots, businesses, churches, schools (after hours), police station or fire station. Google a phone number. Call to ask permission to park. After hours, leave a message with first name and reason for parking. Remember to include a "Thank You."

WATER Carry extra bottles of drinking water, gallon jugs of potable water for washing and flushing in event of pump failure.

FOOD Stock up on canned/packaged foods that do not need heating or refrigeration in case of generator, battery or propane failure. To cook outdoors, use charcoal in a charcoal chimney with small grate on top. Set up in a park grill, in a fire pit or on a sheet of foil on the bare ground cleared of anything flammable. A mess kit set with small pot, plate and cup is convenient. Keep matches on hand. Use a fire cube, not liquid lighter. Do not use a backpacking stove inside the vehicle.

CLOTHING Carry at least one set of out-of-season clothes in event of weather change. Have rain gear or use plastic trash bags for a rain poncho.

READ FOR STRESS RELIEF Purchase reading material to your liking such as a survival manual, flora fauna identification, bible or start a journal. Record experience and reactions.

PHYSICAL HEALTH Don't just sit it out. Do isometric exercises. An exercise band is easy to use. Jog in place. Outdoors, take along pepper spray and only explore safe areas. Be safe. Be prepared. Don't worry!

Carol V. Weishampel, Ed.D. #80679

Facing Fear

As we embarked on our annual-escape-from-winter RV trip, I was entertaining more than my usual fears.

I had recently retired from the nursing profession and was not adjusting well after working full time for decades. I kept wondering, "How would we survive on a fixed income? Will I go insane spending two months in our trailer with my husband and my dog?" The most horrifying thought: "Will I become brain dead because I am not stimulated enough?"

And then, "It" happened. We were settling into our RV campsite in Arizona and suddenly the news was saturated with reports about a new virulent illness. My previous fears evaporated. Covid-19 was mysterious, deadly and ubiquitous. The danger was imminent and my retired nurse brain was essential for our wellbeing.

My initial response was terror. I felt frozen. However, decades of thinking analytically served me well. I recounted how I have worked through fear. Specifically, I recalled how I overcame my fear of RVing.

Emotions are not facts, so the first step I take to deal with fear is to obtain the facts. When my husband and I were neophyte RV owners we listened to the experts. Our RV dealer assuaged our worries by citing the facts. I applied this strategy to Covid-19 and spoke to my nurse colleagues in the intensive-care unit. They provided invaluable up-to-date information and I learned that although it was necessary to wear a mask and keep my distance from people I did not have to become a recluse.

Another method I utilize to calm fear is to learn from my own experiences. Despite assurance from the RV experts, I was terrified of driving our RV across the country in late winter. I did have some mishaps, but I learned how to drive safely. In regard to the pandemic, I learned how to live safely and not be paralyzed by the thought of catching this virus.

The next step I use to minimize terror is to seek out the silver lining. After several RV trips, I wondered why in the world I chose this lifestyle. There was the element of heavy physical work. I did not think I could live without a bathtub, and the thought of using a communal shower made me feel sick. I wanted no part of seeing naked strangers! And the thought of being a snowbird was just too cliché for me! By our third year of RVing I noticed that I was becoming grateful. I was thankful for the quiet hours on the road and overjoyed that my husband and I could work together like a well-oiled machine. I learned to stop assessing the women in the showers (my nurse brain had to relax). I contemplated the good that had resulted from this pandemic. It has sparked a spiritual awakening in the world. We learned that we must stop abusing Mother Earth. Scientists theorize that our encroachment on wildlife and the subsequent destruction of their habitats may result in exposure to novel viruses.

The most powerful tool that I use to face fear is faith. In the first years of living the RV lifestyle, I prayed and prayed for guidance. During the first months of the pandemic I handed my apprehension over to God. The Creator has never disappointed me. Despite the barrage of doomsday media, I still enjoyed our time in Arizona.

Fear is mental slavery. Every time that I am released from the tethers of fear, I can experience joy.

Marie Haas, Guest Contributor

ESCAPEES MAGAZINE—IMPROVED READABILITY

"I don't think I noticed the difference in font, but once I read the blurb about it on page 24 of the November/December issue, I compared the two and I do like this new one much better. Thanks for listening to your readers."

Joyce Space #61818

"We just received our hardcopy of the November/December issue. Thank you so much for "heavying up" and darkening the font throughout the magazine. Although I don't consider myself old at age 59, I can say that the previous font and color scheme were extremely difficult for me to read. I'm not sure if I was one of the people who reached out and asked you to change it, but, if not, I certainly complained enough about it to my husband. Again, thank you for this change!"

Eileen Brown #153377

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

SUBMISSIONS THAT ARE SENT BY E-MAIL CAN BE DIRECTED TO DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM.

“It happened so fast. There was no time to hit the trailer brakes...We were out of control. Fortunately, there was no traffic. I knew I had to end this before anything could be hit by my out-of-control rig.”

Cold Weather Caution for the Road

BLACK ICE

By **CECIL J. DALE** #129364



Christmas 2009 was coming. My sister in Arizona was desperate for my mother and me to come spend the holiday with her and her husband. We had traveled to visit them in Phoenix, in 2007, in a rented travel trailer.*

Having tasted RV travel, I became hooked, and spent time hunting for an inexpensive used RV, as well as a bigger truck to pull it. Just a few weeks before Christmas I had the truck, and I finally found the RV. It was a 1995 Jayco Designer 3430RKS fifth-wheel.

It was cold in northeast Nebraska at that time. In fact, it was below freezing. We set out on our 1,300-mile journey to Phoenix just days before Christmas. This was our inaugural trip in the new-to-us Jayco.

We left on faith, not knowing if we would discover any leaks in the still untested fresh-water system or in the two gray and one black tank systems when we arrived in the welcoming warmer weather of Arizona.

We arrived in the Phoenix area without any issues. Our fresh and waste water systems proved to be leak free, and it was a delightful journey from the arctic conditions in Nebraska to the desert paradise of Arizona. We celebrated Christmas together as a family, and the time came to make our return trip home.

What we didn't know was that a blizzard had struck Nebraska on Christmas Eve. In fact, it snowed there from December 23 through the 27th, with blizzard conditions for two of those days. According to the National Weather Service (www.weather.gov/gid/blizzard_recap), parts of Nebraska received 15.7 inches of snow during this time. With wind speeds between 30 and 60 mph, snow piled into massive drifts.

We had traveled almost 2,500 miles from Norfolk, Nebraska, to Phoenix, and then back to Nebraska, without a problem. With less than 90 miles left to get home, it happened. We traveled north out of York, Nebraska, on Highway 81, and crested a small hill into Polk County, Nebraska. We were traveling at 45 mph to be safe, even though the road conditions had been

perfect the entire trip. Without warning, I felt and saw the rear end of the fifth-wheel start to fishtail. We had hit black ice.

How it Forms

Black ice forms when the air temperature is at or below the freezing mark and precipitation is present. If the precipitation is rain, it can freeze when it comes into contact with the road. If the precipitation is snow or sleet, it can melt during the day due to solar radiation, and then refreeze when the sun goes down. The end result is a thin layer of ice that is totally invisible. If you're lucky, you will be able to detect black ice by its shine if the sun is just right. Roadways that are shaded, as well as bridges and overpasses, are the most common locations for black ice to form.

I let off the gas pedal and tried to correct by turning the steering wheel. I goofed. I ended up over-correcting and the trailer swung in the opposite direction. I then spun the wheel in the opposite direction. The end result was the trailer swinging from side to side as I struggled to correct with the steering wheel. It happened so fast. There was no time to hit the trailer brakes, which may or may not have helped to stop the fishtailing. We were out of control. Fortunately, there was no traffic. I knew I had to end this before anything could be hit by my out-of-control rig. I entered a clear area of the highway where there were no signs or trees on either side. I aimed for the right shoulder of the road and depressed the brake.

We Were Stuck

We ended up in the ditch, with our axles buried deep in the snow. The truck's nose was now facing in the wrong direction, and the trailer had swung around across both lanes of the highway until it also landed in the snowy ditch. It continued to swing around until the front of the trailer struck the rear corner of the truck's cab, shattering the rear window. We had survived, and we had managed to not hit anything. Unfortunately, we were stuck.

The local sheriff's office was called. They arrived quickly as did a tow truck. My truck insurance included emergency roadside

*See the May/June 2018 *Escapees* magazine article, "What I Discovered By Renting an RV"

So, what should you do if you encounter **BLACK ICE?**

- ▶ Remain calm.
- ▶ Don't panic by turning the steering wheel rapidly.
- ▶ Don't slam on the brakes.
- ▶ Do take your foot off the gas to slow down.
- ▶ Keep the steering wheel as straight as you can, gently turning the wheel in the direction that you feel the rear wheels of your vehicle moving. Don't overcompensate.
- ▶ Try engaging your trailer brakes if you are towing your RV.
- ▶ If you end up fishtailing or in an uncontrolled skid, try to aim for an area that will cause the least amount of harm to life and property, like a snow bank or shallow ditch. Then, slowly and steadily depress the brakes. Don't pump the brakes if you have anti-lock brakes, which are found on most cars now.

assistance. According to my insurance company, this roadside assistance pays for:

- Mechanical labor at the breakdown site (up to one hour).
- Towing to the nearest repair location if the covered vehicle is not drivable.
- Towing if the covered car is stuck on or immediately next to a public road.
- Delivery of gas, oil, battery or change of tire (but not the cost of these or similar items) necessary to return a covered vehicle back to driving condition.
- Locksmith labor to unlock a covered car if its key is lost, stolen or locked inside the car (up to one hour).

My roadside assistance will not pay for towing costs beyond what it would cost to tow my vehicle to the nearest repair facility, nor labor costs beyond the first hour. Chances are, you have similar coverage with your tow-vehicle insurance. I would encourage you to speak with an agent or check your policy to see if you have roadside assistance and what it covers.

Unfortunately, the tow truck driver's tow truck wasn't big enough to pull my rig out of the ditch. At one point, he wanted to hook his truck up to the back of my fifth-wheel to pull it and my truck back onto the road. I can't imagine the damage that would have caused to my RV if I would have allowed him to


do that. All I could imagine was the entire rear of the trailer being ripped off. I told him, "No," and a much larger tow truck was called.

The larger tow truck arrived. It was on a semi-truck chassis and was designed to tow the big semi-trucks and trailers. They ended up having to block the traffic from both directions while they hooked two cables to my truck, one onto the front and one to the rear of my truck. Then, they slowly and carefully winched both truck and trailer back onto the highway. We were facing south instead of north, so we had to travel a few miles down the road before we could turn around and resume the last hour-and-a-half of our trip to get back home.

The Sheriff told us that we were one of many accidents on this strip of highway. I found out that Polk County had not spread salt or brine on the roadway, whereas the surrounding counties did, the end result being that numerous motorists thought they were traveling on a safe, treated Nebraska highway, but suddenly found themselves in Polk County, on an untreated road covered with dangerous black ice.

The Aftermath

We made it home, cold, but safe. We had no further problems or issues the rest of the way, and the road conditions were fine. The truck had to have a new rear window installed and the C pillar repaired. When we entered the RV, we found a lot of items that were no longer where they were supposed to be. One surprising thing was we found the refrigerator doors were still latched shut, but its contents were scattered across the floor. Amongst those contents were about half a dozen broken eggs, which had turned into egg-sicles. The outside of the RV suffered only one scratch.

Despite the run in with the black ice, this will remain one of our fondest RV trips. We had a great time with family in Arizona, but we were also glad to be back home, that is with the exception of all the snow I found waiting for me to shovel! 



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



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NEW NOMADS

Take Life on the Road During the Pandemic

By **RENE AGREDANO** #103274

Last year, the general public discovered what many of us have known for years: Traveling in a house on wheels is a great way to explore and live. The relative safety of RV travel during the coronavirus pandemic inspired thousands of new nomads to hit the road full-time much sooner than they ever expected.

Some did it because of job loss, some wanted to take advantage of a dismantled school calendar. Whatever their reasons, many turned to Escapees and Xscapers for guidance and camaraderie along the way. Here are just some of their stories.

The RVing Summer Like No Other

Last June when Mike Yum #142450 went to work enrolling new members into Thousand Trails' network of RV resorts, he could sense something was up in the RV industry. Mike was new at his job, but as a Thousand Trails

membership specialist, the friendly full-time RVer kept meeting people who shared similar stories about buying their first RV. "A lot of people I talked to told me they had to buy their RV sight unseen. They were selling so fast dealers couldn't hang onto them!" Many of those families were already thinking about becoming a weekend RVer before anyone had heard of coronavirus. When the pandemic blew up school and work lives around the country, the stars aligned for those RV dreamers to put their plans into action.

Launching a Travel Plan

Marisa Wolf, writer/consultant, and Jeremy Comeaux, a woodworker, travel with two rescue pups, Josey and Olive. They are originally from Dallas, Texas.

Marisa and Jeremy #162434 dreamed of leaving Dallas and hitting the road for good someday. Then, the pandemic struck and their jobs got axed. But, instead of searching for new employment, they scrapped their old life and launched a full-time travel plan. They've been on the move ever since. Each day they're enjoying the process of



Far left: Stephanie Bryan Fritz.
Center: Children of Chelesa and Chaz Robbins
Above: Lee and Carolyn Rowe
Bottom right: Marisa Wolf and Jeremy Comeaux.

learning the ropes. She tries not to overthink trip-planning, while making the most of whatever the road throws at them. “The biggest mixed surprise is figuring out how to build our own routine when it really is whatever we want to do,” says Marisa. For instance, now they’re watching less TV and spending more time than ever in the outdoors.

Fun and games aside, they’re also working hard to minimize their risk of contracting the virus. The couple is staying put all winter and holding off on travel until spring. “The last thing we want to do is be a Covid vector parading around the country,” says Marisa. “We stock up on food, wear our masks, wash our hands and stay socially distanced, etc.” The virus is a source of anxiety, but travel and nature soothe their worries. “Being able to walk on the beach and see my niece helped me stay sane this year for sure,” she adds.

Retiring to the Road

Lee Rowe, photographer, and Carolyn Rowe, corporate relationship manager, are originally from Nashville, Tennessee.

Lee and Carolyn #156425 were ready to

get out of the rat race in 2017. Lee’s mother had just passed away from dementia, and both their cats died around the same time. “By the summer we were exhausted and deeply unhappy. We felt lost, even though we both had good jobs and a nice house. We were working to maintain our stuff, which felt deeply pointless,” recalls Lee. The idea of full-time travel sounded appealing, and by the following year, they were deep into plans to hit the road during retirement, still a few years away. Then coronavirus happened.

“I lost my job in June, and it allowed us to hit the road sooner than we had planned,” says Lee. His wife’s job at the same company went remote, which was a perfect opportunity to begin traveling. Well-prepared with research and RV knowledge, Lee and Carolyn took to the road in a brand new 2020 Leisure Travel Van Unity FX. Their lifestyle appears to suit them well. “We’ve chatted with more of our neighbors in the last few months than we did in 20 years in our house.” Their expenses are significantly less too. And like all RVers, they’re getting acclimated to living in tight quarters and squeezing RV repair shops into their routes. →

“It’s hard to say where the pandemic will take the RVing community in 2021, but one thing is clear: the nomadic genie is out of the bottle. The foundation of a more vibrant and diverse nomadic community has risen from the ashes of a global tragedy.”

But, as much as they’ve roamed, they still can’t escape the effects of coronavirus. Carolyn tragically lost her mother to the pandemic last year, which added a hefty dose of anxiety to their travels. But they’re managing as best they can to safely explore the country. “We prefer exploring outdoor places like trails and parks, but if we are exploring towns, we don’t go into a lot of shops for safety reasons and also because we don’t have much space so we don’t need the temptation. So far we’ve had no issue; we’ve stayed safe. Knock on wood!”

Making the Easy Choice

Chaz Robbins, marketing consultant, and Chelsea Robbins, a stay at home mom, and children, Olivia and Carter, are originally from Denver, Colorado.

Chaz and Chelsea #161638 lost their jobs in 2020. To make ends meet in high-rent Denver, they could move into a parent’s basement. Or, they could become nomads. Even though they had never gone RVing before, the choice was easy. “Rent is so high in Denver that hitting the road is way more affordable,” says Chelsea. “We started researching online and within three weeks we bought a truck and two weeks after that an RV.”

Today they’re raising two kids, launching Chaz’s new marketing firm and discovering the quirks of living in a rolling house. “We had never driven an RV previously. So there is just a steep learning curve in driving, setting up and moving from place to place,” says Chelsea. Despite the occasional frustrations, the couple has no regrets. They’re


spending more time than ever with each other and want to keep the adventure going for the next five years. “The kids love the road life and told us they want to live in a house on wheels forever,” Chelsea says.

Home on the Road

Stephanie Fritz, coordinator for Christian Formation for the Presbyterian Church (USA), and Bryan Fritz, manager of Overhead Doors, Life Safety Services, travel with two Maine Coon cats and are originally from Arvada, Colorado.

Stephanie and Bryan #139208 got bit by wanderlust long before the pandemic hit. Two years prior, they had ditched their sticks-and-bricks house for a 38-foot Montana fifth-wheel. However, life on the open road remained a distant goal until the pandemic jumpstarted it. Stephanie’s job went remote, and Bryan suddenly found himself categorized as an “essential worker.” He tests fire doors that are often located in hospitals, which required a lot of air travel. The pandemic forced him to stop flying for work and take his home on the road instead. Today his clients happily welcome him onto job sites knowing that his RV gets him there as safely as possible. “We did 20,000 miles from May 7 through September,” says Stephanie. “We’ve slowed down a bit now, but we are both still mobile and remote.”

Redefining ‘Home’ and ‘Community’

It’s hard to say where the pandemic will take the RVing community in 2021, but one thing is clear: The nomadic genie is out of the bottle. The foundation of a more vibrant and diverse nomadic community has risen from the ashes of a global tragedy. Whether we travel for a week, month, year or longer as Escapees and Xscapers, we are actively redefining the meaning of “home” and “community” for people everywhere. All of us are setting a positive example of community-building and resilience that will stay with us long after the pandemic is in our rearview mirror. 



RENE AGREDANO and Jim Nelson #103274 are enjoying their 14th year as full-time RVers and location-independent entrepreneurs. They enjoy sharing the lifestyle with others at www.LiveWorkDream.com.



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Although Yuma is situated in a vast desert, several small lakes lure boaters and fishermen alike.



Yuma, Arizona

An RV Snowbird's *Delight*

By **EMILY FAGAN** #99408

Photos by **EMILY AND MARK FAGAN**

When Arizona was a young territory divvying up government responsibilities between its major cities, Tucson was granted the public university, Phoenix became the capital, and Yuma was left with the territorial prison. Worthy of a chuckle between rival city residents today, each city has grown far beyond its original roots and offers a myriad of opportunities for visitors. Nevertheless, some elements of those early identities still stick. ➔

Once home to a prison known as the “Hellhole of the West,” Yuma never gets quite the same reverence for cultural depth as Tucson, and it doesn’t have nearly the clout in state matters as Phoenix. However, it is a favorite among snowbirds because it has a slightly warmer winter climate, a wonderfully laid-back feel and lots of things to do.

Yuma’s Territorial Prison

In the past, the prison was not a place anyone would have wanted to spend any time. Today, however, it makes for an interesting day trip. Now a state park, visitors are greeted by a whimsical skeleton dressed as a prison guard. Built by the convicts in 1876, the prison housed more than 3,000 inmates over the next 33 years. The fearsome nickname it acquired in the late 1800’s was no joke for the inmates. The cells were essentially iron cages covered with heavy granite blocks. Thick strips of strap iron made up the cage walls, ceiling and floor, and each cell featured a double cage door. The locking mechanism on each door was accessible only from the outside, and even though a small man might have been able to slip his wrist through the caging, the door locks were well out of arm’s reach on the outer walls.

The informative video presentation is excellent, as is the museum’s extensive collection of artifacts and fascinating prisoner histories. A walk among the menacing cell blocks sent shivers down my spine. The prisoners were kept six to a cell, in bunks. In time, the prison became overcrowded, and more than six had to live in a cell, sharing a single chamber pot that was emptied only once a day. This is hard to imagine, given the

“The Old Town district features many lovely adobe brick homes that are trimmed with beautiful glazed tile. The Mexican influence is unmistakable, and the architecture is referred to as ‘Anglicized Sonoran.’”



typical 115-degree summer heat, although the “country club,” as the prison was known to non-inmates, did have a ventilation system as well as a hospital and library, making some of the town folk jealous.

The original beds were wooden, making ideal breeding grounds for bedbugs that feasted on the prisoners at night. Eventually the wardens took pity on the prisoners, burned the beds and replaced them with iron frames. But pity only went so far. Attempting a breakout, eight escapees were shot and killed as they tried to slip out the front gate. Standing in the watchtower, it is easy to see how fruitless their effort was; anyone dashing out the gate would have made easy pickings for the guards.

For those disruptive souls who got out of line, the “dark cell,” a windowless granite room housing a 5’x5’ cage, was their reward. The steel floor of this cage was suspended a little above the ground, eliminating the need for a chamber pot. The floor beneath was cleaned every few months. A tiny vent shaft in the ceiling provided the only light. One man spent 104 days in this cage, after which he became a model



prisoner. Two women spent some time in there as well. I'd had enough after only one minute, and that was while glancing through the doorway!

Old Town

Not all of Yuma's territorial residents were prisoners, of course, and the city offers much historical charm for modern visitors. The Old Town district features many lovely adobe brick homes that are trimmed with beautiful glazed tile. The Mexican influence is unmistakable, and the architecture is referred to as "Anglicized Sonoran." The massive, thick adobe walls keep the intense summer heat outside and give the windows and doors a deeply recessed, shadowed appearance.

A stop at the Garden Cafe is a must. Set on a slope, the outdoor tables are nestled under pretty shade trees and vines tucked into terraced nooks and crannies along the winding stairs. This unique arrangement gives diners a private, exotic outdoor setting for a relaxed meal. Cockatiels and parakeets in cages add an occasional tropical chirp to the air as well.

Lute's Casino is another popular spot. Simple on the outside, this restaurant bursts with nostalgia on the inside. Old posters and other relics of 20th-century American history line the walls, and the chrome and vinyl stools hark back to another era. A favorite watering hole with the military stationed at nearby Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, there are poignant letters on the walls from soldiers stationed abroad saying how much they miss the warm camaraderie and the Lute's Special, a hot dog and hamburger combo platter that has been on the menu since 1951. At times the base is open for tours as well, but we saved that excursion for a return trip.

Colorado River Balloon Festival

Our Yuma visit coincided with the Colorado River Balloon Festival, and we watched colorful balloons take to the skies in the crisp early morning air. We wandered over to the festival again late in the afternoon to watch the evening Balloon Glow. Every inch of the field was covered with balloons waiting to be inflated. Balloon chase vehicles were scattered between the large baskets

Far left: Yuma Territorial Prison was known as the "Hellhole of the West" and housed prisoners in cages made of steel strapping covered with granite boulders.

Left: Colorful balloons light up the evening air during the Colorado River Crossing Balloon Festival.

Below left: The adobe buildings in Yuma's historical district are distinctly southwestern with deeply recessed windows and doorways and vibrant clay tiles on the stairways.



Yuma Territorial Prison

AZSTATEPARKS.COM/YUMA-TERRITORIAL

The Garden Cafe

WWW.GARDENCAFEYUMA.COM

Lutes Casino

WWW.LUTESCASINO.COM

Colorado River Crossing Balloon Festival

CRCBALLOONS.COM/

and immense stretches of colorful material on the grass. Some balloons bore corporate sponsors' names; others belonged to balloon clubs and private enthusiasts. All around us we heard the roar of gas fires as balloonists held one end of each balloon open and aimed a huge flame into it to fill it with hot air. Soon the balloons rose up off the ground, staggering and shuddering like ghosts suddenly infused with life. Handlers tied the baskets down so they wouldn't drift off into the sky.

Some spectators wandered among the balloons in the field, dwarfed by the towering bubbles of color. Others found seats in the stadium, surveying the scene from a distance. An announcer helped to synchronize the balloonists' blasts of hot air so that all the balloons would glow at once. A balloon glow is when balloons are inflated as if taking off, but they are held down by the ground crew. Too much hot air and the baskets would strain against their tethers, trying to fly. So the glows were kept fairly short, allowing the balloons to stay safely attached to terra firma.

“During our stay, we found that in addition to warm winter weather, Yuma offers some unique experiences, whether a slice of southwestern territorial history, a colorful balloon celebration, or scenic outdoor vistas.”

Natural Beauty

During the daytime, we explored the pretty desert scenery on the outskirts of town. This is not the dramatic Sonoran Desert of Tucson and Phoenix, where the famous saguaro cactus stand watch, but is a more muted subsection of Sonoran desert that is simply called the Yuma Desert. The surrounding hills offer a dramatic, craggy and barren backdrop at sunrise and sunset. We hiked into the foothills at the far eastern end of town and passed endless ocotillo cactus. Their thin branches, tipped with flaming flowers, reached for the sky in broad bouquets.

The last half mile of the hike went almost straight up, leaving our lungs aching. But the view from the top of the surrounding patchwork of green farmlands was worth the trek, and a glance through the guest-book made us smile. Everyone had noted that they were gasping for air by the time they wrote their signature, and all were all-too-happy to sit on the park bench and take in the view.

Farmland dominates the eastern end of Yuma. Gazing down from the mountains or driving alongside the farm fields, we felt as though we were looking at the makings for a mammoth mixed green salad. Lettuce, spinach, kale and other healthy greens grow in tidy rows for as far as the eye can see. Fields are harvested in rotation, and a steady stream of laborers work along the rows, transforming mature plants into boxed and labeled supermarket produce as they go. By night, the crop planes circle incessantly, dousing the fields with fertilizer and pesticides. For us, it was a gentle reminder of exactly where our produce comes from, especially when we saw the same labeled boxes on our next trip to the supermarket.

Despite its desert setting, Yuma boasts of a few scenic lakes as well. Riding our bikes along the dirt paths lining the irrigation canals, we discovered beautiful Redondo Lake set against some dramatic desert mountains. A lone boat drifted on a mirror of water. A few miles to the north we came upon Mittry Lake, where marshy shores attract water birds and fishermen appeared to be getting a good catch.

During our stay, we found that, in addition to warm winter weather, Yuma offers some unique experiences, whether a slice of Southwestern territorial history, a colorful balloon celebration or scenic outdoor vistas. 🚚



EMILY AND MARK FAGAN have been traveling full-time by RV and sailboat since 2007 and camp almost exclusively without hookups. Emily has written nearly 200 articles for various RV and sailing magazines, and the Fagans' photography has appeared in many commercial outlets, on magazine covers, in calendars and in museums, too.

Saving While Seeing; An Adventure in Itself

FREE



By **EVANNE SCHMARDER** #65409

There are so many reasons to love full-time RVing: enjoying a national network of like-minded friends, experiencing new and different cultures and flavors and having the freedom to explore wherever and whenever we want. For me, part of that spine-tingling exploration comes in the form of having an environment that allows me to determine how I want to spend my time and what I want to experience. Sure, there's still the daily grind of chores and must-dos, but there's also time to discover what really matters to me.

When my husband, Ray, and I first began our on-the-road adventure, we were delighted to see that many things we cared about “at home” translated to the road. The nature, history, food and personal growth that we loved and longed for were amplified. From the brilliant spur-of-the-moment purchase of a National Parks Pass at Zion National Park, when on our way to pick up our first rig in 2000, to the thrill of being able to walk where history happened, connect with those who grow our food, and relish the life we’ve chosen to live, our horizons expanded.” We also learned that there are many ways to spend time and

money. In the bricks-and-sticks world, we worked. A lot. We had more money than time, so our recreation was often bought and paid for. But now, with more time than money, a wonderful world of free (or almost free) fun presents itself. And frankly, saving while seeing has become an adventure in itself. Chances are, you’ve got your own mix of free fun. Maybe these include shopping local farmers’ markets and trying something new, taking a factory tour or maybe visiting Jelly Belly, Jayco, or the Escapees Headquarters, for example. Allow me to add to your list with some of our favorites that we’ve developed over the years.





Seven Ways to Play, *Not Pay*

1 Explore the outdoors. Take a walk, run, hike or cross-country ski in nature. Breathe deep and observe your surroundings. If birding is your thing, focus on flyways and marshes. More of a sleuth? Try geocaching. Interested in capturing your surroundings to share with others? Digital photography and videography are activities that may be ideal for you.

2 Live the history of an area. For such a young nation, our history is rich. Consider constructing a themed tour. This might include Civil War sites, lighthouses and lobster pounds or ghost towns. Several tour companies offer free and fabulous historic walking tours, only asking you to tip the guide. State capitols are open to the public. Spend a day taking in the grandeur, tours, art exhibits and history lessons.

3 Get your art on. Many, if not most, art museums offer a free admission day once a month. If you've been dying to see that Van Gogh, Monet or Warhol, take a look at the museum websites along your route and plan accordingly. College campuses can offer a day full of free fun. For example, Stanford University has an amazing Rodin sculpture garden plus a free 90-minute public tour of the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory studying accelerator physics. You might also seek out public art installations such as Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, Texas, or colorful street art that is all across the country.

4 Window-shop a fancy part of town. While a shopping spree on Rodeo Drive or the likes of it (you'll find these posh 'hoods' all across America) isn't in my cards, it's great fun to spend an afternoon strolling the streets, peeking in the windows, marveling at the beautiful objects and poking around the shops. Put a topper on the occasion by popping into a coffee shop or restaurant for a drink, a snack and some first-class people watching.



“RVers are rich in experiences, making memories every mile that we go.”


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7 Handwrite letters, postcards, etc.

Whether you are inside on a rainy day, relaxing with a refreshing beverage at a local café or sitting at your sunny picnic table, there’s something special about penning a note to the ones you love. This could be as short and sweet as a postcard “wishing you were here” to a long letter to friends and family. This style of communication represents a time past and invites a feeling of connection. It’s always welcome and is something recipients can hold on to, re-read and savor.

You might also consider writing to yourself by journaling or sketching your surroundings. We believe we’ll remember, but the truth is memories fade. There’s nothing like looking back at your travels and reliving the memories on the page.

The Best Things in Life are Free

RVers are rich in experiences, making memories every mile that we go. Curiosity and resourcefulness are the natural order of our days. You bet, a multi-park Disney World spree is divine, but a week RVing and exploring Jekyll Island, Georgia’s Driftwood Beach, biking the mossy-oak canopied trails and admiring the once-abandoned “cottages” of turn-of-the-century elites is something that I’ll always cherish. What kind of free fun is in your future? 

5 Go garage sale-ing or thrifting.

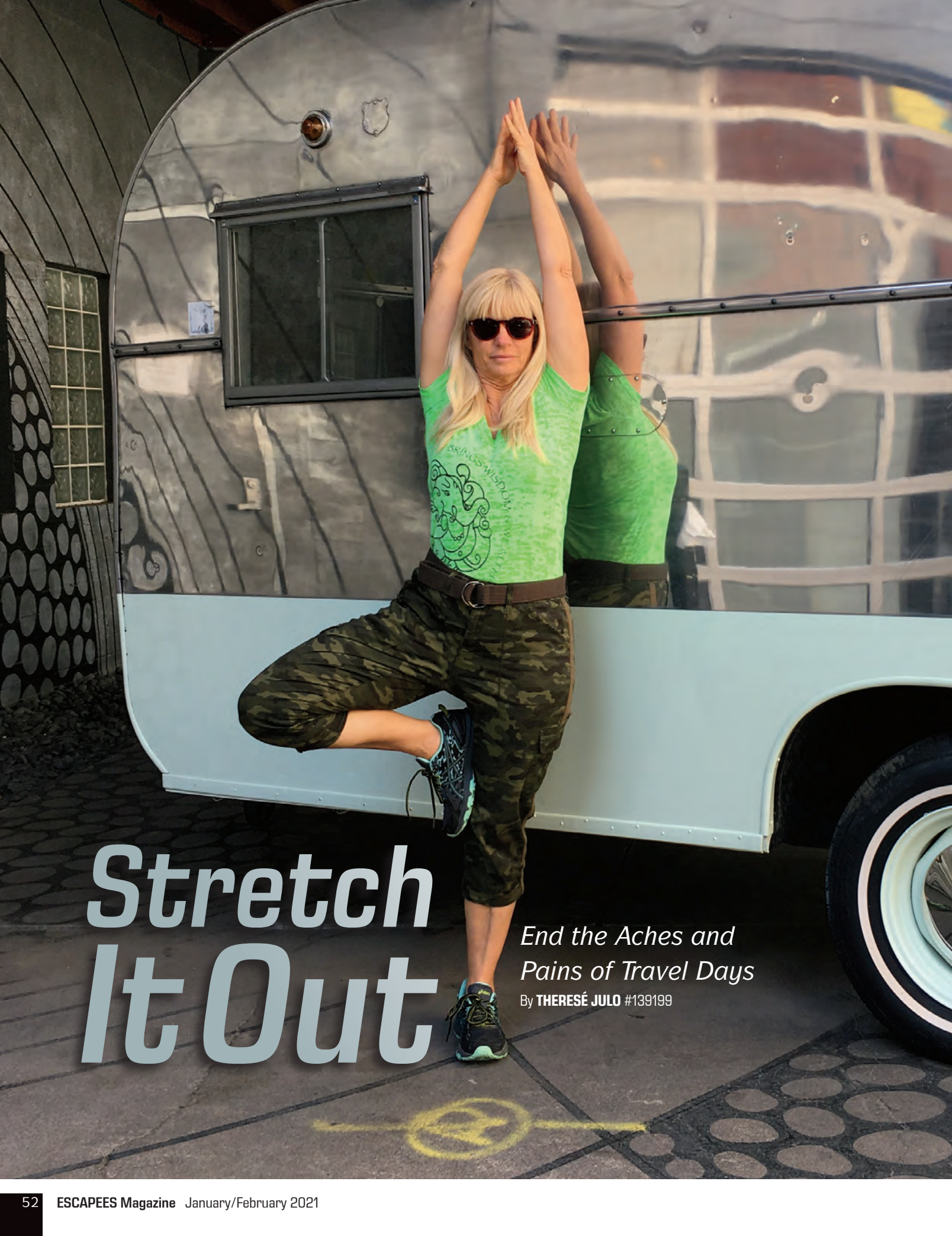
In my barely 200-square-foot world, I don’t need many things. However, I’m never one to pass up a juicy-looking garage sale or thrift store. You never know what you’ll find. Sometimes you’ll take home something very cool, useful or unique, while other times it’s simply enough to browse, lining up with many RVers’ reduce/reuse/recycle philosophy.

6 Take a class in person or online.

Continuous learning is a hallmark of a life well-lived. There are several ways you can continue to learn a new skill or concept. Large resorts often have an art/craft pavilion where, for pennies plus supplies, you can learn an artisan craft under the tutelage of pros, using professional equipment that you’d otherwise not have access to. I’m big on lapidary, warm glass, woodworking and silversmithing. World-renowned universities offer a vast library of free online courses through web organizations such as Coursera. Join for free and find classes that tickle your imagination. Coursera offers 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.



Stretch It Out

*End the Aches and
Pains of Travel Days*

By **THERESÉ JULO** #139199

“My back is tight!”

“I’m so sore.” “Everything hurts!” How often have you said this at the end of a long travel day? I’ve said these and much worse after driving five or more hours a day and feeling like roadkill. I know better than this! I’m a traveling yoga teacher. I was determined to develop quick and easy ways to end travel stiffness and fatigue and help my fellow RVers.

My husband, Peter, and I were on our second trip rocketing across the US going to the Xscapers Casa Grande Convergence. I’m exaggerating by saying “rocketing.” We really couldn’t rocket across the US pulling a beast of a fifth-wheel filled to the brim with all our most precious belongings. Traveling at the top speed of 62mph, it takes more than a week to cross the US. Over a week of sitting, eating poorly and not hydrating enough took a toll on our bodies. We were not happy campers.

Why did this happen? We were so excited to get to the Convergence and see our friends, we endured long days of driving. The driving aggravated already tight muscles in our low backs, hips, hamstrings and shoulders. Muscles were tight from the days of packing and getting ready for the trip.

We arrived at the Convergence exhausted. Everything hurt and we could barely stand up straight. While driving, we put on the heat seats in our truck to soothe our low backs and hips, areas critical for mobility. The heat gave us a false sense of security. While it felt good, we foolishly thought the heat would make up for not stopping at rest areas or roadsides to stretch.

Prolonged Driving

Long periods of driving and sitting have a compounding effect on your internal and external body functions, including:

- Decreasing blood flow in your body.
- Poor posture compresses the spine, increasing the chance of back pain.
- Limited range of motion in the joints, especially hip flexors, knees and ankles.
- Hamstrings and quads muscles are shortened and tighten.
- Kidneys and colon don’t get movement, reducing your digestive health.
- Shallow breathing zaps your oxygen levels, creating travel fatigue.

There are several more problems, but you get the point!

The Convergence began the next morning. I was teaching an 8:00 a.m. yoga class. At the beginning of class, I asked my students the following questions about their travel days, and if they had

- traveled for several days straight,
- stopped to stretch during travel, →



Above: Xscapers yoga class seated twist pose.

Far Right: Rest Area Side Stretch

Right: RoVers Roost Hip Stretch



- planned to stop and stretch during travel,
- ate properly and kept well-hydrated during travel.

There were 37 RV yogis in the class. (An RV yogi is someone who is an RVer and practices yoga.) Sadly, I found common bad habits among 32 participants. That's 86% of the class! Only five yogis had good habits.

Bad Habits

- Traveled over two days straight.
- Arrived late the day before.
- Hated travel days.
- Only stopped to use the rest room and not stretch.
- Some have travel urinals and didn't stop.
- Didn't plan any stops to take a break.
- Barely slept and stayed at truck stops or other dry-camp spots.
- Ate junk food full of salt and sugar.
- Didn't stay adequately hydrated because they didn't want to make frequent rest room stops.

Can you relate to this? Were you checking off the list? Did you add to the list?

The class laughed that we were fatigued road warriors. And proud of it! Well, sort

of, except for the pain. Jokingly we said, why not start "The Everything Hurts RV Club." To add insult to injury, we all knew that we should stop, stretch, eat properly and hydrate.

I was really bothered about the way we treated our bodies on travel days. At different social events, I asked people about the quality of their travel days. The majority of folks had the same bad habits on long travel days and felt like roadkill when they arrived at their destinations. Many folks commented it took them several days to work off the stiffness and recuperate.

If you're saying "I do this, too," you can be a card-carrying member of the "Everything Hurts RV Club."

I spent days surveying as many people as I could about their travel habits and which areas of their bodies felt most tight and sore from their travel days. I talked to RVers of all ages, genders and RV types. That was a hoot! We Escapees are quite an eclectic bunch.

At a happy hour, I was pulled aside and told yoga/stretching and rest room stops had never been a topic of happy-hour conversation, but now it was all the rage!

With that information, I knew I was onto something and began to formulate a plan for how I could help.

From my surveys, I put together a set of stretches for the most common body areas people complained about.

I told my yoga students what I was up to and asked for volunteers to try out the stretches. We devised a makeshift rest area facility and roadside stop simulation. We used picnic tables, walls, guard rails, trees and grassy areas.

The final consensus was that picnic tables made great props to use for stretching, regardless of whether you practiced yoga or not. These stretches can be done by anyone.

Once the stretches were nailed down, we discussed how often people felt it was realistic for them to stop and stretch.

There was no consensus on time.

Why Stretching Is So Important

With no consensus on time, I took to Google and researched medical articles from Harvard Health, Mayo Clinic and Healthline on what happens to the body during prolonged periods of driving and sitting.

I found conditions such as arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, COPD, digestive disorders, varicose veins, DVT, bad backs and mental fatigue are all aggravated by sitting too long. Medical advice recommends stopping for a break about every two hours of driving time, which equates to 100 or 150 RV miles. This time helps the body maintain the benefits of stretching.

With the results from the simulation and research, I developed the six Rest Area Stretches for RVers Guide. The guide includes six quick and easy stretches with photos and instructions.

These stretches target areas most critical to mobility. Anyone can do them. You don't have to practice yoga to participate.

Critical areas for internal and external body mobility and function:

- Upper, middle and low back
- Hip flexors
- Hamstrings
- Sides of body
- Twists for digestion
- Legs and gluteals (bum muscles)

How To Plan Your Rest Stops

On our next trip across the country to meet up with some Escapees friends in Arizona, we practiced what I preached. It made sense for us to stop every three hours. Since our overall length is 53' (truck and 5th-wheel), we travel mainly by interstate. I found the easiest ways to plan our stops were designated rest areas, roadside stops at interesting places or overlooks that were timed with eating lunch or dinner. We also pre-planned what we would eat, packed healthy meals, snacks and plenty of water.

I received an unexpected benefit with the planned stops. I no longer have a need to be mad at Peter for blowing by a rest area when I need to stop and he doesn't. Ladies, you know how unfair this is!


With each stop, we stretched. Our bodies thanked us for the care we took to stretch, eat properly and hydrate. After eight days of straight travel, we arrived in Arizona and felt great. We didn't need to recuperate. We were energized.

While in Arizona, we also stayed at RoVers Roost SKP Co-Op. Several of my yoga students who were part of the simulation were there. They told me they changed their evil ways, too. They planned stops, followed the stretching guide, brought plenty of healthy food and water with them.

We all agreed, while our overall trips may have been a wee bit longer, none of us felt like the travel-fatigued road warriors we were before.

If you're an RV yogi or interested in yoga, please check out the Escapees Traveling Yogi BOF (see page 80).

About the Six Rest Area Stretches for RVers Guide:

I've planned this sequence to let your body stretch in the most beneficial way to alleviate your stiffness and travel fatigue. Do the sequence or pick stretches for your tightest areas. If you have an illness or injury, please seek medical advice. This sequence is not a substitute for professional medical advice or treatment. 



*Six Stretches
for RV Travel Days*

Six Stretches *for RV Travel Days*

Stretch your body in the most beneficial way to alleviate stiffness and travel fatigue.

Do the stretches in sequence or pick stretches for your tightest areas.

1. Back Stretch

What it does: Relieves mid- and low-back pain by stretching the front and back sides of the body simultaneously.

HOW TO: Place your hands on the table. Walk your feet back until you are on your tiptoes. Gently lean your hips into the table. Draw your shoulder blades closer together.

HOLD: Take three to four deep breaths. Repeat as often as you like.

2. Hamstring Stretch

What it does: Relieves tight glutes and hamstrings by stretching the length of the leg.

HOW TO: Place left hand on the table for support. Place right heel on the bench. Reach your hands toward your toes. Rest one or both hands on your leg or toes. Flex your right foot towards you. It's o.k. to have a slight bend in your knees.

HOLD: Take three deep breaths; repeat on the other side.

3. Hip Flexor Stretch

What it does: Relieves tight hip flexors in the front groin area where the hip and leg attaches.

HOW TO: Place right hand on the table for support. Place the left leg behind you on the bench so the leg is on a slight angle. Slightly bend the right knee until you feel the left hip flexor stretch. Bend into the stretch to your point of comfort.

HOLD: Take two to three deep breaths; repeat on the other side.

4. Twist Side Stretch

What it does: Relieves tight muscles along both sides of the spine from the shoulders to top of hips. Provides movement to aid digestion.

HOW TO: Sitting at the end of the bench, cross the left leg over the right. Place the left hand on the inside of the left knee/thigh area. Inhale to straighten your spine and twist gently to right. Place the right hand behind you for support. Gently twist right to your point of comfort.

HOLD: Take two to three deep breaths; repeat on the other side.

5. Figure Four Stretch

What it does: Relieves tight glutes, hips and hamstrings.

HOW TO: Sit on the bench and place right ankle on left thigh just above the knee. Flex your left foot. Place your hands on your legs and gently press down and lean forward to your point of comfort.

HOLD: Take two or three deep breaths; repeat on the other side.

6. Side Bend Stretch

What it does: Relieves muscles along the side of the body from the waist all the way out to finger tips.

HOW TO: Place your left hand on the table for support. Spread your feet apart. Raise your right arm overhead and dip over toward the table to your point of comfort. Keeping the feet wide apart gives you an inner thigh stretch as well.

HOLD: Take two deep breaths; repeat on the other side.



THERÉSÉ JULO loves yoga and has been a yoga teacher for over 20 years. She and her husband, Peter, became full-time RVers nearly three years ago. Therésé saw yoga and RVing fit together naturally since minimal space or equipment is needed. Her mission is to help RVers maintain their health and fitness on the road. She teaches adult and kids yoga classes at Escapees events and hosts the Yoga BOF.

IF YOU HAVE AN ILLNESS OR INJURY, PLEASE SEEK MEDICAL ADVICE. THIS SEQUENCE IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL ADVICE OR TREATMENT.



The Things We Leave Behind

By K. SUSIE ADAMS #134068

Hypothetically speaking, you and your spouse made a decision quite a while ago that it was time to hit the road. You decide to contact your two adult sons and tell them this: “We wanted you to know that we’ve decided to sell the house, use the money to buy an RV. We’ve been dreaming about this for years. Now is the time.”

One son is super excited. He loves this plan. However, the other son is completely bewildered at your decision.

“Why would you do such a thing?” he asks.

“We need you two to come visit,” you explain. “Look through the house and take anything you like. Once we sell the house, we are getting rid of everything that won’t fit in our RV.”

Now both sons are flabbergasted that you are selling the house where they grew up and are getting rid of everything.

But they do as instructed. They visit, they take the things they want. Your house sells more quickly than you could have dreamed. And, true to your word, you have gotten rid of everything that wouldn’t fit in your RV. You are free.

Let Me Introduce Myself

I am an attorney with Loring & Associates. My partner, Shawn Loring, is the CEO of Escapees. For the past several years, I’ve been writing for this magazine on issues such as domicile, wills, trusts, LLCs, lemon laws and RVs, and other articles on legal issues that may affect RVers. Our law firm gives advice on domicile and, when people want to become Texans, one thing we recommend is that they have their wills, trusts and powers of attorney written and/or rewritten under Texas law. And, coincidentally, that’s what we do. We will create your estate planning documents: wills, trusts and powers of attorney.

The will and/or the trust is the document that spells out where you want your belongings to go when you are gone. It also

“I have had many people ask me about ‘probate,’ the process that takes place in a court after you die. This is where the state, and even the county, in which you are domiciled becomes involved.”

allows you to designate who you want to be in charge of your stuff when you die. The powers of attorney allow you to designate who you want to be in charge of your medical and financial decisions in case you are in some way incapacitated. So, all we talk about every day, we jokingly say, are those dreaded subjects: death and incapacity. When the documents are ready to be signed, we have a ceremony in our office. Each document must be signed before a notary and three witnesses, so we provide those people as well.

But Then What Happens? Once these documents have been created and signed and notarized, they remain as your documents until you either replace them with new documents or you die or become incapacitated, and then they are the key to who you choose to be there for you when you are incapacitated or after you have passed on.

What is Probate?

I have had many people ask me about “probate,” the process that takes place in a court after you die. This is where the state, and even the county, in which you are domiciled becomes involved. If it is Texas, the process involves having the person you named as your executor appear in court. These days, with the covid-19 virus and, quite frankly, because this is Livingston, Texas, and many of you will probably not die here, these probate hearings are handled virtually by Zoom. The judge is in his/her chambers, I am at my desk and the executor or other representative may be anywhere as long as they have a computer or phone available for Zoom. Although there is quite a bit of preparatory and follow-up work by the lawyers, the actual probate hearing usually lasts less than 10 minutes.



By the probate process, the judge grants a person the right to be in charge of your stuff, as you have clearly indicated in your will. In Texas, that right usually comes in the form of something called “Letters Testamentary.” Once your executor (named representative) receives those Letters, they are free to handle your estate without much involvement from the State of Texas.

My Personal Experience

My father died in 2014. Up until his death, he was adamant that he needed to “avoid probate.” It was a mantra back then. He had his lawyer draw up wills for him and my mom, and also trusts, and had hoped everything was in order. In fact, my sisters and I did have to probate his will. My mom had died in 2012. After Dad’s death, we also had to probate Mom’s will as that was the only way to pass title to real estate. And it actually turned out not to be a big deal to probate their wills.

After Dad’s death, we also had the job of sifting through his things and Mom’s things. They had been living in the same house for 50 years, and even though we had done



quite a bit of cleaning before he died, the most important jobs occurred after he was gone. In his closet, I found his tennis bag. He and I played quite a bit of tennis together. He also had other tennis partners. When he died, he was 88 years old. The last game of tennis he played was probably in his early 70s. But there it was, his tennis bag, just as he left it 15 years before he died.

My dad was the somewhat typical guy who grew up during the Depression and then served in WWII. To me, he was also what I would call “cheap.” One of the places where he saved money was by not buying tennis balls. Rather than spending \$2.99 for a new can of tennis balls each time we played, he bought a tennis ball pump. It looked like a can of tennis balls with a weird top, but was designed to refresh the tennis balls, make them “as good as new.” It never worked. But there it was, in his tennis bag, with the last three tennis balls still in the tennis can pump.

He also still had an aluminum Jimmy Connors tennis racket he had bought in 1970. I played college tennis in the '70s. I came home from college with some terrific new tennis rackets. Over the next 30 years, I tried to persuade him to buy a new racket, but he never would. So, there it was, his tennis bag still holding his Jimmy Connors racket and his tennis can pump. To me, it summed up so much about my father.

During the covid-19 pandemic, I must admit, our law firm has had three to four times as many probates as we had in previous years. I do not know if it is because of the virus, simply because folks didn't seek timely medical attention or because we have an aging populace, but the numbers have grown.

Also, as an unexpected consequence of the virus, my husband was laid off from his job just before the pandemic struck. Rather than his usual work as a biochemist, he offered to help deal with several estates where



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“During this time, I have had a lot of time to reflect on the stuff we leave behind...I usually ask folks during our initial ‘domicile’ conversation, ‘What did you do with the stuff that didn’t fit in your RV?’”

our client had died and the relatives lived far away. As a result, we have hosted several estate sales during this crisis (socially distanced and masked, and largely outdoors, I must add).

Time for Reflection

During this time, I have had a lot of time to reflect on the stuff we leave behind. Since many full-time RVers have sold their houses when they chose this lifestyle, I usually ask folks during our initial “domicile” conversation, “What did you do with the stuff that didn’t fit in your RV?” Sometimes, the answer is that they placed everything into storage or with a relative. Occasionally, I get the very pleasant answer as I mentioned at the beginning of this article, “We got rid of all of it!”

At one of the homes that my husband helped clean, there were books. When I heard that the house was “full of books,” I had an idea of what that might mean, but I had no idea how many books one person could collect. There were rooms and rooms of books. At the estate sale, I sat outside as the cashier. Folks would bring what they wanted to buy to me when they were paying. Since we had all spent so much time alone, I think folks also just wanted the chance to talk.

One shopper came by and mused about the books.

“Just think,” he said to me, “(the deceased person) spent all that time reading. And what did they get from that?”

I am a reader. I have a room full of bookshelves stuffed with books.

“Maybe they liked to read,” I responded.

The man just looked at me.

So then I thought about that. What will

folks say when I die? Will they look at the books I leave behind? I think that our two grown children will enjoy all my books. I imagine that they will find “wisdom” in the books I chose to keep. But then I can more readily imagine that they just have to face the task of getting rid of the books. I wonder if maybe the best gift I can give our kids is to pare everything way down ahead of time. It might be better to let them look through our things now and choose what they want.

Then there’s a dear friend of mine. After her mother died, she asked me to help her sort through her mother’s things. I expected that, over a long weekend, we would go through all of her mother’s things, create piles to throw away, a few things to keep and other items to give to my friend’s two brothers. Luckily, before I spent the weekend helping her, I had a very wise friend remind me that people “grieve differently.” Sure enough, when I went to my friend’s house to sort through her mother’s things, we got “nothing” done. Instead, my friend just tried on all of her mother’s clothes, one by one. She was, in fact, saying goodbye to her mom, grieving in her own way.

In the end, what do we do with all this stuff? How much do we want to save for our kids, friends or strangers to sort or sift through? Which of my kids will find my tennis bag, with my old racket and an unused can of tennis balls?

I suppose a pandemic and probating so many wills leads one to wonder about that time when we are no longer here. I give lectures on the subject of wills. I start by saying, “If you hate your family, don’t have a will.” It’s a joke, of course. The truth is, though, the more issues you deal with ahead of time, the better for those loved ones you leave behind. Or maybe you need to leave a lot behind so that your family can grieve in the way that makes the best emotional sense for them. 🚚



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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Norcold sodium chromate leak
"yellow death."
PHOTO BY BY ALFRED J. OXTON #57888

Finding and Fixing Leaks

By ALFRED J. OXTON #57888



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Reminded by advice in Mark Nemeth's "Mark, My Words" column in September/October 2020 issue, I'd like to share a recent experience with my propane refrigerator and an unrelated propane leak.

The leak was first. I'd been casually looking for a leak for at least a year. As I was later to learn, there was more than one. My friend Michael #115976 has a better nose than I, and every time he came to dinner at my rig that I've named *The Cat Drag'd Inn*, he would comment about smelling propane. I went all over the propane system with a fine soap spray and couldn't find a leak. Mike let me borrow his propane sniffer device to confirm what his nose already knew. Eventually, when I got close enough to the problem, I found "the leak."

Actually, I had this same kind of leak in my air system several years ago. *The Cat Drag'd Inn* lost air while I was driving across the Hatch cutoff between Hatch and Deming, New Mexico. At a wide spot on the top of a long broad hill, I found the copper tubing from the air compressor had broken at the flare inside the flare nut. On a Sunday afternoon, with no hardware stores open for miles in any direction, I could not find my flaring tool. Carefully, over the next hour or so, I created a fitting flare with some key files and a pair of long-nose pliers. Good enough to hold air and get me to a better place, but I won't go into what happened when I replaced all that copper with proper nylon air line. That's another story.

Back to the propane. The same sort of break had occurred in the copper tube at the low-pressure output end of the regulator. The flare had broken off the end of the tubing inside the flare nut. I couldn't find this leak with the soapy water because the leaking gas was blowing the liquid away faster than the bubbles could form.

But there is more. Getting serious with a U-tube manometer, I learned the system would not hold the test pressure for the required length of time. My 1998 copy of the LP-Gas Serviceman's Handbook says on

page 36, that after doing this, that and the other: "If the pressure remains at 9" w.c. for three minutes, you can assume the system is leak-tight." My system would not hold 9" w.c. for even one minute.

I came to the conclusion that the time had come to deal with the leak(s), starting back at each appliance and closing shutoffs or disconnecting and capping the tubing.



"Perhaps the tubing was damaged before I bought the rig, or maybe even during the original installation."

Leak Repair

It took two days of crawling around under the bus, breaking down the plumbing and pressure testing section by section, to find this break where the 3/8-inch copper tubing passes up through the steel-foam-plywood deck into the head, under Hurricane Hazel-Rah's litter box. Along the way, I replaced 12 feet of tubing and added one shutoff valve to facilitate future pressure-testing of the propane system. The cause of the break is still under investigation. There was a tiny slit of a leak in the tubing where the 3/8" copper passed through the steel deck, so corrosion or vibration could have been the cause. Perhaps the tubing was damaged before I bought the rig, or maybe even during the original installation.



A U-TUBE MANOMETER
MEASURES GAS PRESSURE IN
INCHES OF WATER COLUMN (W.C.)



Norcold 641 Hvac 120V
.8A 96W @ 120V
IMAGE COURTESY OF
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Investigating Absorption Refrigerator Fires

To gain a better understanding of the inner workings of RV absorption refrigeration systems, and see unique indicators which may be helpful in preventing fires, download and read these two PDF documents created by the Applications Engineering Group, Inc. (AEGI).

[HTTP://AEGIFORENSICS.COM/LIBRARY/PDFS/INVEST-ABSORPT-REFRIG-FIRES-PART1.PDF](http://AEGIFORENSICS.COM/LIBRARY/PDFS/INVEST-ABSORPT-REFRIG-FIRES-PART1.PDF)

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chromate and its presence indicates a leak, which can engender catastrophic failure resulting in fire (See Refrigerator Fires sidebar). In the photo, the yellow stain is evident on the fiberglass and below in the burner area. The leak was likely towards the top of the burner unit, then the fluid ran down along the refrigerant tube, through the burner assembly and out to the left, where a deposit was left on the rear apron.

After considerable research and soul searching, I decided to replace the absorption cooling unit with a compressor unit. Three major factors in this choice were with cooling recovery time (very fast with the compressor compared to rather slow with absorption), cooling function even when ambient temperatures are above 100F (absorption process stops altogether around 110F), and power consumption (propane usage aside, the 120-V AC electric heater in the absorption unit draws 300 watts, the compressor in the new unit draws 96 watts).

Then there are the safety and leveling issues. Granted, I lose the ability to operate through several cloudy days if the solar system receives insufficient charge, but, if necessary, I'll run a generator.

My new cooling unit came from JC Refrigeration in Shipshewana, Indiana, and simply connects to the existing control board in place of the absorption AC heater. They also make a 12- or 24-vdc model.

The movie has already been made, so I didn't need to take photos of this. Converting a fridge, like my Norcold, from the absorption cooling unit to a compressor cooling unit is shown in this YouTube video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yte1V3Ck-Drw&feature=youtu.be). The rationale here is that the 96-W compressor load, supported by solar, should permit me to save a lot of propane while I am boondocking. But too many cloudy days will mean running the main engine or the APU (auxiliary power unit). We'll see. 

Now, on to the Fridge!

My Norcold N641 was new in September 2001 and the control board failed in 2014, possibly due to lightning. Following the recommendation of Mark Nemeth in the November/December 2012 issue, I replaced it with a board from Dinosaur Electronics.

The N641 continued working well until June 2020, when the cooling unit failed, displaying the dreaded yellow leak of sodium chromate.

The absorption cooling unit has a long and arcane function. See the Wiki article [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absorption_refrigerator] =] if you want the rest of the story. The yellow death is indicated by deposits of yellow-green powder on the exterior of the refrigerator's rear apron. This is sodium



A. J. OXTON (AJO) and his cat, Hurricane Hazel-Rah, have traveled 24 countries on six continents (including eight provinces and all 50 states), living on the road full-time, since 1997, in *The Cat Drag'd Inn*, a 1964 Superior coach (3208). thecatdragdinn.org/migo.htm

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MEMBER SECTION



Hosts Rose and Evin Carr set up for some safe and socially-distanced fun at the California Winter Home Base Convergence. PHOTO ROSE CARR #151584

January/February 2021

In the movie *Forrest Gump*, Tom Hanks famously said, “My mama always said, life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you’re gonna get.” That message can be one of hope and inspiration or one of warning. Of course, when you start with a box of chocolates, even if you pick one you don’t care for, you’re still eating chocolate—not too terrible.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD A BOX OF CHOCOLATES

By **SHAWN LORING #76442**, CEO, Escapees RV Club



Welcome Home

ESCAPEES DR

In many ways, 2021 is our box of chocolates. Sure, we don't know what we are going to get until we march heads held high into the new year. But, 2021 in comparison to 2020 still has us eating chocolate. If nothing else, we as a global community, and as an RVing community, are armed with a better understanding of the coronavirus and, we are more accustomed to the preventive measures we must employ to keep ourselves and each another safe. (We, your Board, continue to have weekly covid-19 meetings to reassess our policies and procedures.) And, at risk of seeming overly Pollyanna, at the time of this writing, it seems effective vaccines are imminent, signaling a return to some semblance of normalcy.

Online Education Revised

As we noted in recent installments of this article, we have not been sitting ideally by during the pandemic. We spent the better part of two years redesigning our online education program. The revised RVer's Online University (RVOU), which we launched in December of last year, was given an update in style, accessibility and content. In addition to the RV foundations: operation, safety, and maintenance courses, we now offer Roadmap to Full-Time RVing. Whether you are a weekend RVer, want to pursue full-time RVing or find yourself anywhere in between, we want to help take the stress out of RV living and help you make the right choices to stay out of the repair shop and happy on the road.

Escapees RV Parks

We soft-launched a change to the marketing of our parks system. Rainbow Parks is now Escapees RV Parks. This shift in name is part of a larger effort to tether the various aspects of the Escapees RV Club, and their underlying companies, into a cohesive brand. For instance, we are currently in the process of updating all the signs in our parks. Next time you visit us, you may be greeted by a large white sign and a red arrow, welcoming you home. (See photo at left.)

"...with all of the advances we are making as global community, as an RVing community, and as your Escapees RV Club, we can't help but hope that 2021 will be a far cry better than 2020."


And, our park improvements do not end there. We are in the process of launching a program, also two years in the making, to greatly expand the number of parks in the Escapees family. We don't want to give away too much, too soon. But, suffice it to say, over the years, we've heard your requests for more Escapees parks and we've answered the call. Stay tuned for big news from our parks system!

Winter Home Bases

One of the most notable and the most apparent effect that covid-19 had on Escapees was the cancellation of our events. Rest assured that we are preparing to host our traditional events (i.e. HOPs, Hangouts, and Convergences) again and we'll do so as soon as it is safe. We distinguish our traditional events from our virtual events and Winter Home Bases, both of which continue to give you opportunities to interact with fellow RVers. Winter Home Base events, an inspired idea hatched by our event staff, enables small groups of RVers to camp continuously together, providing a sense of community at the safety of isolation from people outside the group. As you can imagine, they are popular and sold-out quickly. And, while we had to shift Escapade from Tucson, Arizona, in March, to Rock Springs, Wyoming, in July, we fully intend (at the time of this writing) for the show to go on. We sincerely hope to see you there!

Current Adocacy Efforts

In addition to all our homegrown projects, there always seems to be an advocacy issue that requires our attention. Around one year ago, the US Department of Interior, the government agency that manages the National Park System, undertook an assessment of the national parks with a goal of modernizing the campgrounds while preserving the natural splendor of the parks. We recently participated in an industry task force, lead by RVIA, to advise and consult on the government's proposal. The feedback our members have provided through a series of surveys along the way, has been invaluable in shaping that guidance. We are encouraged to see DOI follow through on their commitment to making the national parks more accessible, with improved camping experiences. We'll continue to be a voice for RVers in that process, however we are able.

As we stand on the precipice of another year, it remains an inalienable truth that we don't know what we are going to get. But, with all of the advances we are making as global community, as an RVing community, and as your Escapees RV Club, we can't help but hope that 2021 will be a far cry better than 2020. And, in that spirit, we wish you one sweet year. 

ESCAPEES *Hangouts!*



HANGOUTS ON "PAUSE" UNTIL JULY 2021

As we're writing this in late November, the coronavirus pandemic is still raging. The Winter Blast fireworks show in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, has been cancelled, resulting in the cancellation of our Hangout there, and the U.S. border with Mexico remains closed to tourists through at least December, making it impossible for us to hold the Baja Mexico Hangout planned for March. And with travel and large gatherings unlikely to become safe again for at least several months, we and the Escapees Board of Directors have decided to abandon our plans for the other Hangouts we were working on for the first half of 2021.

However, our three Winter Home Base Hangouts in Arizona, Texas and Florida continue through February 28, 2021. These events provide safe and responsible ways for our members to ride out the winter months with small groups of other Escapees. A few sites may still be available for the month of February at some locations: visit [\[ees.com/event/winter-home-base-hangouts\]\(http://escap-ees.com/event/winter-home-base-hangouts\) for details and to request a reservation.](http://escap-</p>
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We are using this unexpected downtime to make plans for Hangouts to resume in early July 2021, with at least six events (hopefully more!) in the second half of the year. All of the Hangouts on this map (other than the Winter Home Bases) are tentative as of this writing, but as plans firm up, we'll announce them first to members who have opted-in to the Hangouts announcements e-mail list. So, if you're not already on that list, sign up at escap-ees.com/hangouts.

Until we can hang out together again, stay well and travel safe!



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.



A MESSAGE FROM XSCAPERS FOUNDERS

By **TRAVIS CARR** #8, Escapees President, and **MELANIE CARR** #8, Escapees Vice President

ON THE HORIZON

“Uncertain times,” a phrase that seems to litter promotional e-mails, news headlines and radio conversations. And, probably just like you, we are over it! Escapees, with its 42-year history, is no stranger to hard times. While dealing with a global pandemic is unquestionably something new and unexpected, Escapees’ ability to overcome is not. So, while we do not fully know what 2021 will have in store, we can say with certainty that Xscapers is on course and running full speed ahead. We are determined to bring positive change and continue to make strides forward as we kick off the new year.

Convergences, one of the biggest focus points of our community benefits, has undoubtedly been affected the most. Regardless, that has not stopped JP, the Xscapers Convergence Director, or us, from making upcoming events a major focus in our regular conversations. While we cannot guarantee exactly when we will get to tip our glasses and say “cheers!” over reuniting again, we can promise that when we do, it will rock the ground around us!

So, while Convergences have not given us the ability to connect with our RVing family this year, in addition to the other countless hardships 2020 brought, it would be

untrue to say that nothing good happened. As of October, Escapees RV Club has joined forces with Sharee Collier, founder of Live Camp Work and the Make Money and RV Summit. With Xscapers’ focus being to provide resources and services for the working-age RVer, adding Sharee to the team is a massive win for the RVing community and club.

Sharee is now the project manager for a redesign and extension of the RVer Job Exchange that is currently in the works, as well as other resources that will cater to those looking to work or are already working from the road. While Xscapers is known as “the community” for working-age RVers, the Xscapers- inspired resources, such as the RVer Job Exchange, haven’t realistically received the dedication needed to make them the best they can be. With remote work and RVing on the rise, it is more important, than ever, that we expand and improve resources such as these to continue helping the RVing community succeed.

More good vibes are making headway as we enter 2021. The Xscapers family now nears 15,000 members, which is an all-time high. That accounts for almost 21% of the overall club and is still the fastest growing segment of Escapees. It is a testament to the connection between this organization and its community members, and for that, we cannot thank you enough for your continued support and loyalty. As always, we will continue to give it our all and to earn it.

We look forward to bringing excitement to the community throughout the year, and we remain confident that good things are coming! And while we all agree that 2020 has not been the year we hoped for, we must remember to be grateful for the wins, no matter how small, and remain focused on our aspirations.



“I couldn’t be more excited to team up with Escapees to work on this project! Creating and delivering resources to working RVers has been one of my main goals since 2013 when I first started writing about my personal adventures in workamping! After publishing my first book on the topic, *Live Camp Work: A Beginners Guide to Workamping*, in 2018, I knew I wanted to continue to develop both free and paid options for people searching for genuine information about how to fund their RV life, the Escapees RVers Job Exchange aligns perfectly.”

Sharee Collier



XSCAPERS EVENTS

By **JP SMITH** #115625, Convergence Director

We all want to get back to hugs and high fives, sharing potlucks and games inside each other's rigs. And, we all hope that happens sooner rather than later. However, until it happens we wanted to figure out a way to bring the Xscaper community together and, at the same time, give some nomads a home to safely ride out the winter together. That's where the idea was born for the Winter Home Base (WHB) Convergences.

We figured if people came to an event knowing that there were protocols to make it safer, and if everyone agreed to follow the rules, we could probably host a safe and fun winter convergence.


Galveston, Texas, and Palm desert, California, were the chosen sites. They're nice places to ride out a cold winter and places that would afford us the ability to host all activities outside. That was the plan.

The minimum stay was set at one month, so we could lessen the amount of people that passed through our bubbles and limit our exposures to outside factors.

So far, it's been a hit! All activities are outside and social-distancing protocols are followed in every event. Most RVers spend more time outside than your average sticks-and-bricks dweller, so we are used to finding fun things to do outdoors. And, the Xscaper community hosts have been doing a fantastic job keeping everyone entertained and safe!

Hollie and Aaron Delagardelle of Nerdy Nomad Fame have come up with some exciting activities to take advantage of Galveston's beach-side location, organizing fishing rods for people to use and helping to clean the public beach at the same time. Designing a Galveston city-wide Scavenger hunt over several days got participants to explore the island, and racing rubber duckies around the RV park's lazy river, was like having our own Kentucky derby!

Meanwhile in California, Linc and Kim Spangler and Evin and Rose Carr have been doing a wonderful job putting together outdoor movie nights and Cornhole tournaments. They have also helped gather food for a local shelter and had trivia nights with contestants competing for prizes and bragging rights.

These extended stay Convergences give Xscapers the chance to work during the day and safely gather at night. It's also nice to slow down our travels sometimes and get to know a few fellow working-age RVers, and that has been easy to do at the WHB events. 



Xscapers mini golfing during the Galveston Winter Home Base Convergence. PHOTO BY JP SMITH #115625.



Xscapers at the California Winter Home Base Convergence. PHOTO ROSE CARR #151584.

UPCOMING CONVERGENCES

These are weird times for RVers. The COVID-19 pandemic has put a damper on traveling and all the socializing we normally enjoy. While we need somewhere safe to land during the winter months—preferably somewhere warm where we can enjoy the outdoors—we also all miss seeing others in our Xscapers family.

That's why we'll be making your winter dreams come true with a new kind of event called Winter Home Base Convergences. As the name suggests, this program features three "home base" locations for Escapees members in some of the country's most popular winter destinations: southern California & Texas. Each location provides a place for you to ride out the months of November through February in a safe and responsible way with your Xscapers friends.

XSCAPERS WINTER HOME BASE

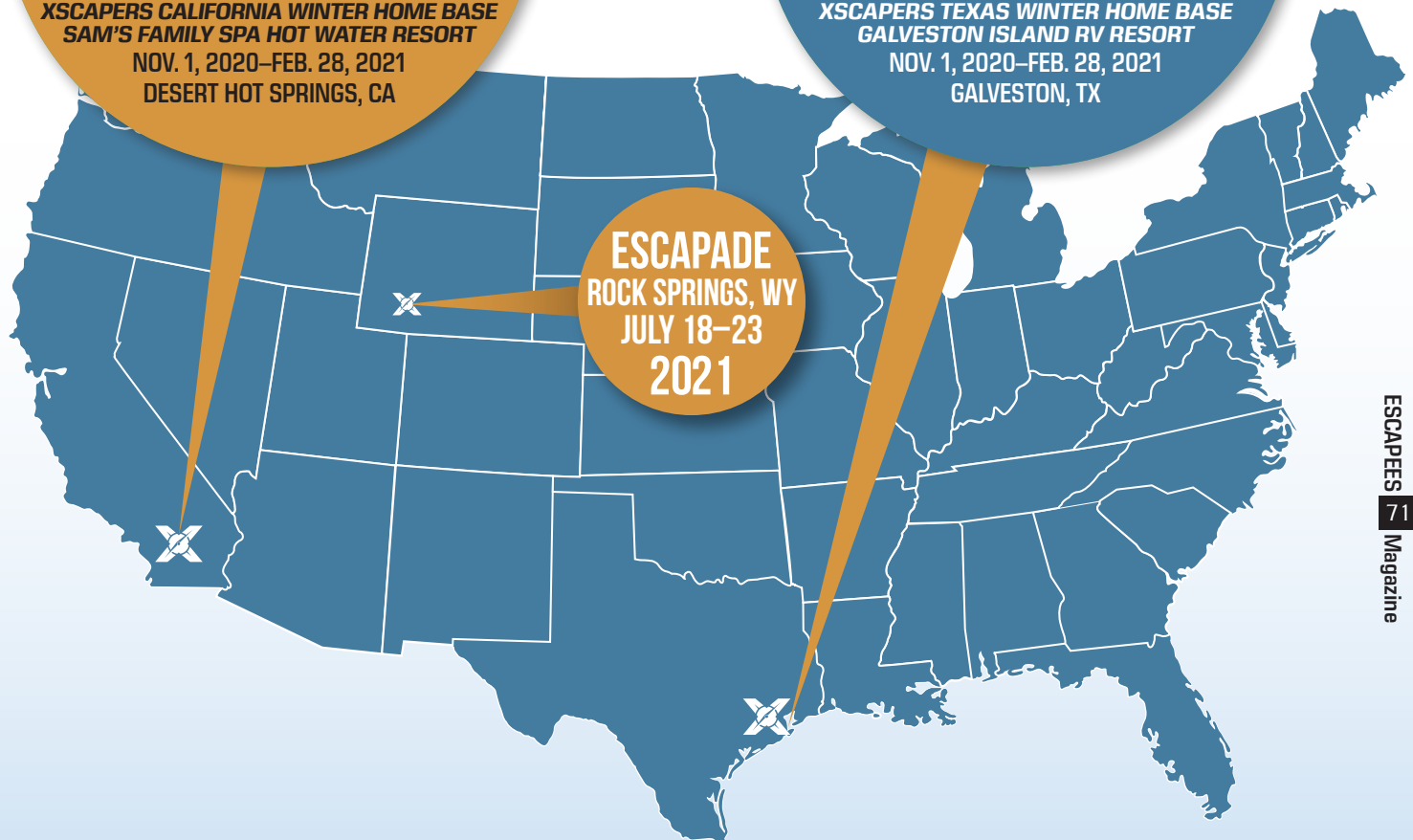
2020 - 2021



XSCAPERS CALIFORNIA WINTER HOME BASE
SAM'S FAMILY SPA HOT WATER RESORT
 NOV. 1, 2020–FEB. 28, 2021
 DESERT HOT SPRINGS, CA



XSCAPERS TEXAS WINTER HOME BASE
GALVESTON ISLAND RV RESORT
 NOV. 1, 2020–FEB. 28, 2021
 GALVESTON, TX



ESCAPADE
ROCK SPRINGS, WY
JULY 18–23
2021

Please visit www.escapees.com and www.xscapers.com for up-to-date information regarding events. Due to concerns surrounding COVID-19, event schedules are rapidly changing, and events may be canceled or postponed after this magazine issue is published.

XSCAPERS
 POWERED BY ESCAPEES *RV* Club®

EVENTS CALENDAR

Join us at one of these rallies or National events!

- Call the voicemail phone number (888-757-7701) + extension number for specific directions to events.
- **March/April** deadline: **Jan. 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@escapées.com, or mail submissions to *Escapées* Magazine, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351.

DATES	LOCATION	HOST CHAPTER	888-757-7701 EXTENSION #
JANUARY 2021			
01-February 28	AZ Congress, Arizona Winter Home Base Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-327-8873
01-February 28	CA Desert Hot Springs, Xscapers California Winter Home Base	Xscapers	xscapers.com
01-February 28	FL Lakeland, Xscapers Florida Winter Home Base	Xscapers	xscapers.com
01-February 28	FL Chiefland, Florida Winter Home Base Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-327-8873
01-February 28	TX Galveston, Xscapers Texas Winter Home Base	Xscapers	xscapers.com
01-February 28	TX Livingston, Texas Winter Home Base Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-327-8873
10-14	AZ Quartzsite, Plomosa Road and Highway 95	34	8034
10-24	AZ Quartzsite, Boomerville Rally	Boomer BoF	boomerbof@gmail.com
16-24	AZ Quartzsite, MM 3 Plomosa Road	06/21	8006/8021
FEBRUARY 2021			
03-19	MX Baja, 39th Annual Mexico Rally	08	8008
11-15	AZ Lake Havasu City, Winter Blast Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-327-8873
15-22	LA Duson, Cajun Country Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-327-8873
21-26	AZ Congress, North Ranch RP, Creative Getaway	North Ranch RP	928-427-3657
28-March 11	BC Mexico, San Felipe, Baja Mexico Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-327-8873
APRIL 2021			
08-11	GA Hiawassee, Riverbend Campground	29	8029
16-18	GA Dillard, River Vista RV Resort, RVers Boot Camp	National	936-327-8873
19-25	GA Dillard, River Vista RV Resort, SKP ACRE rally	Steve Masterson	skpacre@gmail.com
22-25	CA Red Bluff, Durango RV Resort	37	8037
22-29	TX Sealy, Couthatte Recreation Ranch	11	8011
26-May 03	CA Lodi, Wine Country Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-327-8873
30-May 05	TN Crossville, Spring Lake RV Resort	42	8042
MAY 2021			
13-16	OR McMinnville, Old Stone Village RV	37	8037
JUNE 2021			
02-05	OR Chiloquin, Train Mountain Railroad	37	8037
07-10	WI DeForest, KOA Madison	49	8049
13-17	WA Frances, Swiss Hall	34	8034
14-18	AB Canada, Rimbey, Last West Community Hall	44	8044
21-25	WA Lynden, NW Washington Fairground	05	8005
JULY 2021			
08-11	TX Elmendorf, Braunig Lake RV Park	11	8011
11-15	OR Rickerall, Polk County Fairground	34	8034
18-23	WY Rock Springs, Escapade	National	936-327-8873



RVers BOOT CAMP

POWERED BY ESCAPEES Rv Club

Escapees RVers Boot Camp will precede the rally and be held April 16–18, 2021.

SKP ACRE RALLY 2021

April 19–25, 2021

River Vista RV Resort,
Dillard, GA 706-746-2722
www.RVMountainVillage.com

The SKP ACRE planning committee, steering committee and rally team have selected River Vista RV Resort, in Dillard, Georgia, as the rally location for 2021. The goal of the steering committee is to provide a quality rally at the lowest possible cost. There will be some catered meals and, as always, a potluck dinner. The Escapees SmartWeigh team will be available to weigh your RV, and we have added our Escapees RVers Boot Camp prior to SKP ACRE, on April 16–18, 2021. Seminars will be provided on topics that include, for example, tire pressure. Rally Fee is \$65 per person. River Vista RV Resort rates range from \$41–\$56 per night minus a rally discount of 15% to 25% based on the total number of RVs. The discount will be calculated and added to reservations 20 days before the rally.

SKP ACRE Registration process will open January 31, 2021, on-line at skpacre.weebly.com. Registration has been delayed until January 31 in order to allow more time to assess the Covid 19 requirements. You can make your campground reservations after May 1, 2020. We are in the process of creating our new website, and, although it is currently under construction, we invite you to visit often as we will be posting updates for this event.

We invite you to join us April 19–25, 2021.
Feel free to contact us at
skpacre@gmail.com.

Steve Masterson #95338, SKP ACRE President

Dianne Wood #113382, Director of Communications and Webmaster

FOR INFORMATION ON ESCAPEES RVERS BOOT CAMP, VISIT

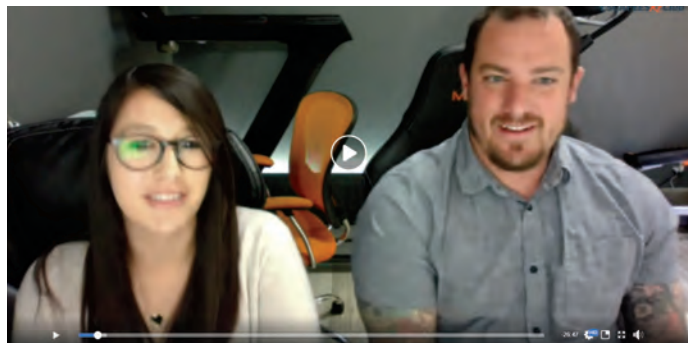
www.escapees.com/community-calendar/category/rvers-boot-camp/

SMARTWEIGH INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

www.escapees.com/education/smartweigh/

JOIN OUR ONLINE EVENTS

ESCAPEES Rv Club VIRTUAL CAMPFIRES



Escapees Virtual Campfires bring the conversation around the fire into the online world. Hosted live on Facebook by members of the Escapees team, they cover a range of topics of interest to any RVer. Join the conversation in real time with a running chat on Facebook!

QUARANTINE PRESENTED BY ESCAPEES Rv Club Live!



Quarantine Live! will keep you on your toes and entertained. You can watch your favorite bands and entertainment right from the comfort of your own RV. Tune in and join the party with your friends online Saturday nights. We'll all be there to chat, dance and share the experience.

ESCAPEES Rv Club VIRTUAL HAPPY HOURS



Virtual Happy Hours keep the fun going for Escapees and Xscapers. We may not be able to meet in person, but we can still be social online! Hosted by our event directors, we'll catch up and chat on Zoom before playing a game or enjoying another activity. Join your friends on Friday night!

NEW



RVERS BOONDOCKING POLICY

Dear Fellow RVers,

As thousands of new RV enthusiasts join us on the road, it is more important than ever to be good stewards of our environment. Protecting and preserving our public lands should be our honor and must be our pledge. Whether we choose a national park, national forest, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) site, or other public lands, these practices always apply.

Remember, camping on public lands is a privilege, not a right. Abuse can create tighter regulations, raise maintenance fees, and have an overall negative impact on public lands and our ability to use them in the spirit in which they were intended. With the help and support of our advocates, the Escapees RV Club has created a condensed list of "Best RVing Practices" to ensure that our public lands will remain beautiful treasures that we can retreat to as we travel.

Public Lands Parking Etiquette RVers Boondocking Policy

- 1. Respect the Rules of the Land.** Observe posted signs, obtain permits when necessary, follow usage limits, and camp only in designated areas and pre-established campsites, which vary depending on agency and state regulations. Bear in mind, some of these lands fall under federal laws, not state laws.
- 2. Treasure the Terrain.** Camp on durable surfaces. Avoid damaging surfaces or modifying terrain by digging, moving large rocks, cutting plants, etc. Stick to pre-designated paths without widening them or creating new ones. Remember, there are native plants, organisms, and ecosystems that interplay here and can be easily damaged.
- 3. Respect Your Neighbors.** Avoid overcrowding an area or blocking your neighbors' view. Orient your RV so that your generator isn't directed at them and respect quiet hours. Rules vary but are generally between 10pm-8am. Maintain a tidy campsite. Keep noise to a minimum so everyone has a peaceful experience. Drive at a campground speed and be aware of kids, wildlife, pets, and your dust trails.
- 4. Respect Nature and Wildlife.** Keep pets under control and clean up after them, even in the wild. Don't entice, feed, or approach wildlife. Limit or eliminate use of pesticides. Check for burn bans; be mindful of firewood rules and make sure your fire is fully extinguished. (Remember, exhaust pipes on vehicles and generators can trigger fires.) Consider a propane fire pit that you can carry with you and snub out easily.
- 5. Pack it In, Pack it Out.** Keep your holding tanks closed! Secure fresh water from approved sources and dispose of trash respectfully in public trash receptacles. Lower your impact with bio-degradable products.

Always leave the area cleaner than you found it!

Take only memories, leave only footprints.

As RVers, we should be good stewards of the land to protect this privilege for future generations. Not following these practices can have serious consequences and could be detrimental to all RVers. Public lands can be closed to camping because of overcrowding, damage to the land, and guests overstaying the time limits. Following the best practices will help ensure that we all remain good neighbors to each other and the land. If you feel that someone is unaware of these practices, share these resources with them in a positive way.

We wish you safe and happy travels,

ESCAPEES RV Club®

For more information and resources on boondocking best practices, please visit www.escapees.com/rvers-boondocking-policy



↔ DOMETIC

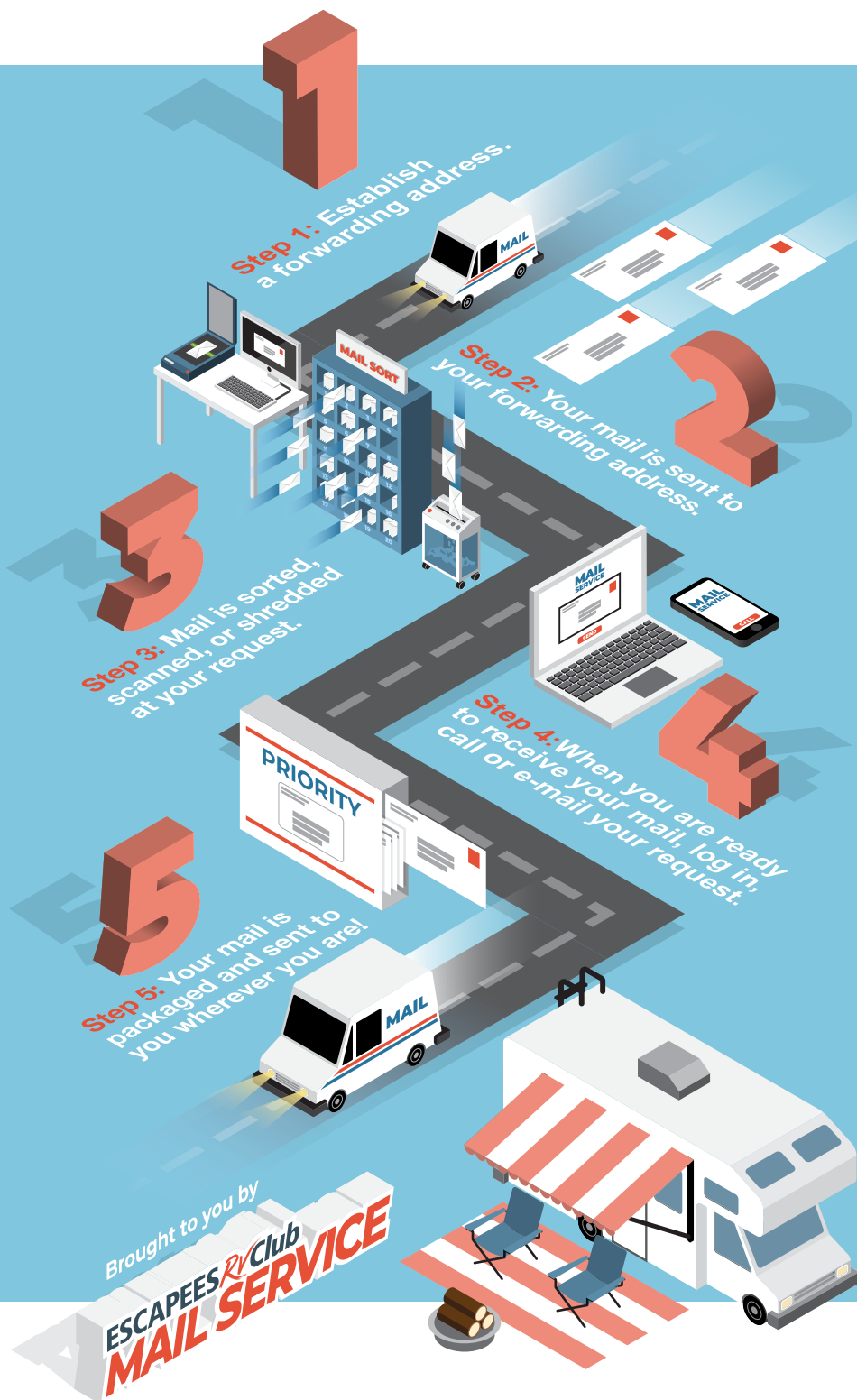
WINNEBAGO



CAMP ADDICT

HOW DO RVERS GET THEIR MAIL?

Whether you are a full-time RVer, or simply on an extended RV vacation, using an RV mail service makes it easy to get your mail on the road.



WHERE CAN YOU RECEIVE MAIL ON THE ROAD?

- Post office via General Delivery
- Friend's or Family's house
- Campground Office
- Mail Box Store

Always check before having mail sent to a PO Box or RV park.

ESCAPEES RV CLUB MAIL SERVICE IS THE LARGEST MAIL SERVICE THAT CATERS SPECIFICALLY TO RVERS.

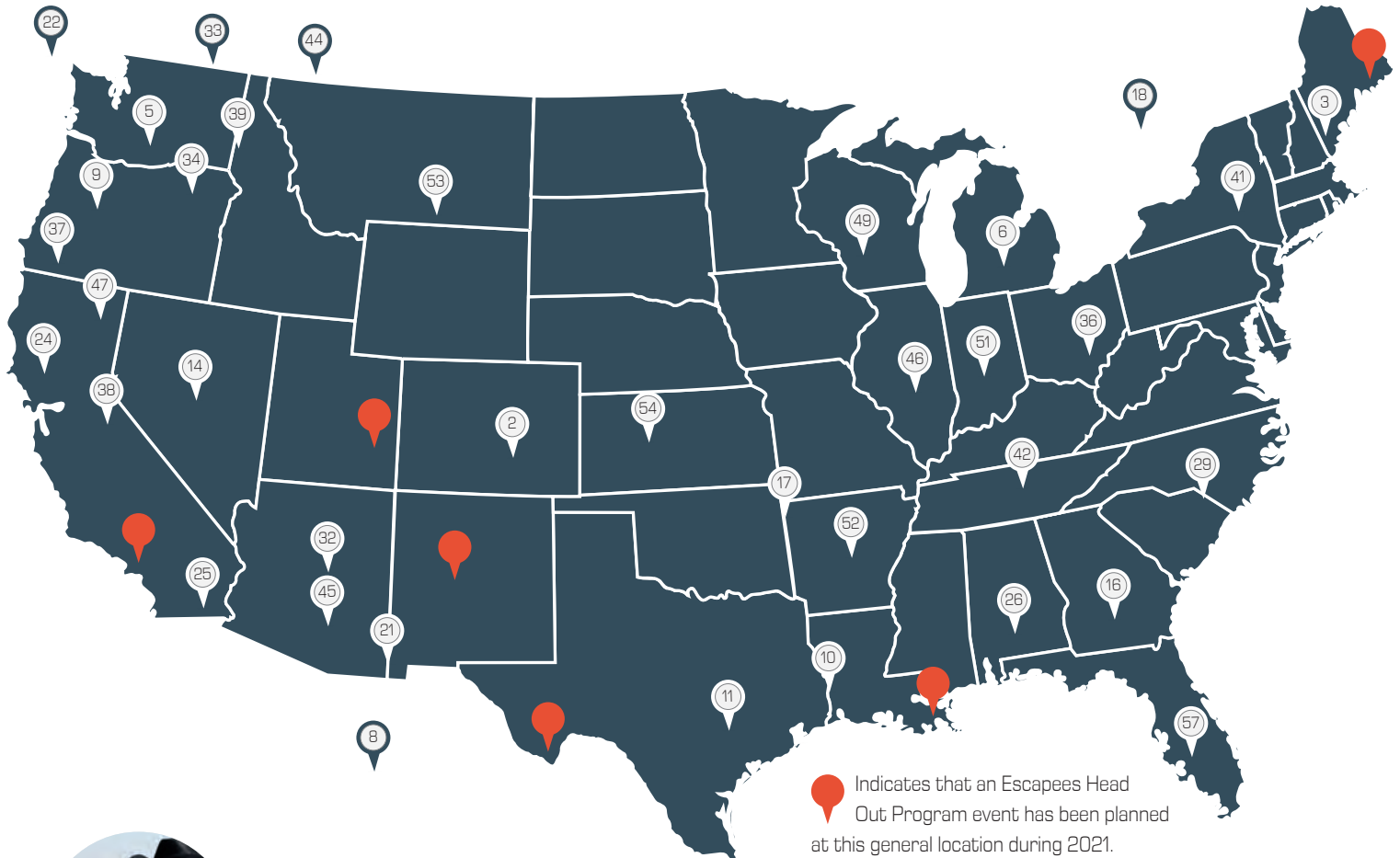
Give us a call and we can help you set up the right mail-forwarding solution for your needs today!


936-327-8873

CHAPTER MAP

Let's Get Together!

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.



 Indicates that an Escapees Head Out Program event has been planned at this general location during 2021. See page 26-27 for more information.



A WORD FROM OUR GROUP DIRECTOR

JIMMY AND LOCKIE SAILER #130519, Chapter Directors

Happy New Year to each and every one of you! We're looking forward to 2021 and all the adventures that it brings with it.

We would like to give a shout-out to all of the wonderful Chapters and BoFs that are a part of Escapees. Each day we hear positive news coming out of these amazing groups and it is like a ray of sunshine to witness all the great things they do. Each group is special in their own way and they always find a way to share with others.

It makes us proud every time we see the accomplishments made by the Chapters and BoFs, and how they make things work out, even when it's not easy to do so. These are not only groups of people who gather to have fun. They are friends that find ways to help each other and reach out to lend a hand or a smile whenever it is needed.

If you want to be a part of this type of friends-and-family community, you can find out more by visiting escapees.com and clicking on the "community" tab, or check out more in the *Escapees* magazine "chapter" and "BoF" columns.

Until next time, we wish you safe travels.

E-MAIL CHAPTERDIRECTORS@ESCAPEES.COM TO START A CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA.

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.

CHAPTER NUMBER	CHAPTER NAME	CHAPTER PRESIDENT	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS + EXTENSION #	888-757-7701
2	Rocky Mtn. High	Linda Gilmore	303-349-8845	president@escapeeschapter2.com	8002
3	Northeast	Cheryl Pease	413-628-4794	cupcake65@verizon.net	8003
5	Evergreen	Steve Allgire	206-949-0186	chapter5president@gmail.com	8005
6	Great Lakes	Mike Foley	616-862-8893	mfoley1505@sbcglobal.net	8006
8	Mexican Connection	Kassandra Dennis	408-603-0600	kassandra@ekdennis.com	8008
9	Oregon Trails	Betty Bush	503-705-9872	bettybush01@yahoo.com	8009
10	Rainbow Chapter	David Horton	563-529-6181	dhorton2@aol.com	8010
11	Alamo Area SKPs	Ken Dixon	210-218-7656	kennethdixon01@att.net	8011
14	Lucky Rollers	George Leese	888-757-7701	bigbg62@yahoo.com	8014
16	Georgia Azaleas	Joe Maltese	706-594-9374	escapeeschapter16@gmail.com	8016
17	Ozark Chapter	Alvin Baker	918-740-4263	bakerskp17@gmail.com	8017
18	Maple Leaf	Howard Krakower	613-829-3587	howardkrakower@yahoo.com	8018
21	Arizona Saguaros	Stuart Dutcher	520-403-1062	dutch1062@msn.com	8021
22	Van Islanders	Keith Ellison	250-746-7919	keithandsue@shaw.ca	8022
24	Gold Nugget	Jackie Friday	209-304-2483	fridaymj@att.net	8024
25	Shanty Shakers	Mike Formico	619 884-9069	mformico@cs.com	8025
26	Gulf Posse	Cushman Phillips	770-312-8871	cushman@cbphei.com	8026
29	Carolina Rovers	Craig Rickenbach	803-372-2998	carickenbach@gmail.com	8029
32	Yavapai	Jeanne Nielsen	253-514-3680	beadyrags@yahoo.com	8032
33	BC Okanagan SKPs	Al Wejr	250-545-1359	alweege@gmail.com	8033
34	Columbia River SKPs	Karen Grady	503-260-5764	kgrady606@gmail.com	8034
36	Erie Shores	Merle Cockayne	440-823-6214	gulleyjumper0208@yahoo.com	8036
37	Rogue Valley Rovers	Valerie Rasmusson	541-951-1972	valrasmussonrvclub37@gmail.com	8037
38	Mother Lode	Sandy Thomason	209-984-5017	sandytom71@yahoo.com	8038
39	Wash-Pan	Bev Allenbaugh	509 925-3297	photogal@fairpoint.net	8039
41	NYSKPS	Marilyn Woodside	908-377-7765	lynhw15@gmail.com	8041
42	KEN/TENN	Ray Rountree	502-664-1080	rayretired44@gmail.com	8042
44	Alberta Roamers	Bob and Sheila Lake	403-281-1695	chapter44rvclub@gmail.com	8044
45	Valley of the Sun	Dale Geary	602-799-5860	azdesertbum5@gmail.com	8045
46	Lincolnland	Marti Aanerud	708-534-1537	martijeem@hotmail.com	8046
47	Nor-Cal Gypsies	Nancy Voyles	530-357-4762	tsman@aol.com	8047
49	Badger SKPs	Bruce Hennington (acting)	888-757-7701	bhennington2@gmail.com	8049
51	Hoosier Neighbor	Vernon Bergi	219-608-1148	bergv52@gmail.com	8051
52	Arkansas Diamonds	Don Tannehill	501-410-8950	tannehilld@sbcglobal.net	8052
53	Treasure St Travelers	Randee Follmer	406-698-4416	rj.cm@live.com	8053
54	Wild West Escapees	Neal Haerich	785-735-4969	nhaerich@gmail.com	8054
57	Florida Sun Gators	Lynn Lunde	352-217-5168	lblunde@aol.com	8057

SKP DINE-OUTS

It's time to eat!

Join fellow Escapees for any one of these regional dine-outs. Please confirm the time and location of luncheons before making plans to attend.

ALABAMA

Gulf Shores: 2nd Mon, 10 a.m., *Original Oyster House*. 701 Gulf Shores Pkwy. Ruth E. Snashall: 408-206-2831, ruthsnashall@icloud.com. Oct-April

ARIZONA

Apache Junction: 1st and 3rd Wed, 11 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, 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: 928-231-7422, imslide@gmail.com

Yuma: 2nd Wed, 10 a.m., *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 Tannehill: 501-410-8950. April-Oct

CALIFORNIA

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

Modesto: Canceled until further notice. Sandy Thomason, 209-984-5017.

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

Sacramento: 2nd Wed, 11:30 a.m., *Perko's Restaurant*, 6215 Sunrise Blvd., Citrus Heights. www.goldnugget24.org

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), 11:30 a.m., *IHop*, 202 Nickolson Ave. Anna Hartman: 805-937-1856

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

COLORADO

Englewood: Postponed until further notice. Chuck Derington: 303-842-1519, chuckderington@comcast.net

FLORIDA

Clermont: 1st Thurs, 11 a.m., *Golden Corral*. 1555 Grand Hwy. Rose Irons: 239-896-3799, ggshirkey@yahoo.com. Nov-April

MISSOURI

Springfield: Postponed until further notice. Vernon Eide: 417-209-8650.

NEVADA

Pahrump: 2nd Mon, 11:30 a.m., *Mountain Falls Grill*, 5001 Clubhouse Dr. George Leese: bigbg62@yahoo.com. Sept-May

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

NEW MEXICO

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

OREGON

Medford: 2nd Tues, 11 a.m., *Chadwick's Pub and Sports Bar*, 2300 Biddle Road. Valerie: 541-774-4394, valrasmussonrvclub37@gmail.com

Sutherlin: 2nd Wed, 9 a.m., breakfast, *Abby's Legendary Pizza*, 1011 W Central Ave. Rick De Young: 541-315-2830. Jan-Dec

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

TENNESSEE

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

TEXAS

Livingston: 2nd Fri, 1 p.m., *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: Canceled until further notice. Lawrence Pay: 801-599-3518, Inpay@msn.com

WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon: Canceled until further notice. Bud/Lori: 206-953-6433, budkauffman@me.com

Tacoma: Canceled until further notice. 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*, 2339 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: lhenton@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, 11:30 a.m., *Wayside Restaurant*, 10680 Sunset Rd. Sharon Sandau: 519-862-2152, sdsandau@teksavvy.com. May-Nov

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

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BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Escapees Special Interest Groups

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

Alternative Medicine: Newsletter about, but not limited to, herbs, vitamins, dietary ideas, natural healing, attaining and maintaining health. I also send BoF Extras and Bits&Pieces. Free e-newsletter. Send SKP# and e-mail address to thrivebydesignonline@outlook.com. Please include BoF or Escapees in the subject line. Joyce Langley #147115. 164 CR 2127, PO Box 302, Burkeville, 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 and e-mail address, to Forrest Clark, KC9YMH, SKP #110995, 411 Walnut St, PMB #10903, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.

AVA America's Walking Club: AVA is a nationwide network of walking clubs. Its members arrange walks to local points of interest. We host walks throughout the year, and you're welcome to join America's Walking Clubs' events. The cost per person per walk is \$3. Membership in America's Walking Club is not required but encouraged. Members can earn pins and patches. To join BoF, send your name, SKP# and address to Susan Alton: avabof@aol.com.

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

Boomers: Casual group (no rules/no officers/no cost) for those who have a youthful mindset. Members enjoy hiking, beading, biking, reading, 4-wheel drives or just sitting around the campfire. Monthly e-newsletter and Facebook group 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. To join, contact Judy Wilson at wilsonjudwil2@gmail.com.

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 without focusing on denominationalism. Meet at Escapades and Christian Fellowship BoF rallies. Visit www.cfbf.com. Membership is free. For rally information, contact Allen Ferguson, at fergizmo@thefergs.com.

Computers: For all computer users. Info is exchanged by e-mail. To subscribe to the newsgroup, e-mail: skp-computer-bof+subscribe@googlegroups.com. Contact: Andrew Richardson, 204 Rainbow Drive #10474, Livingston TX 77399-2004; spun69@gmail.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 provide life-sustaining assistance. For info, visit: www.dovebof.org or contact Brian at president@doveBoF.org or Don at membership@dovebof.org (210-268-3931). Yearly dues: \$10.

Escapees Traveling Yogi: All welcome, from dedicated yogis to those curious about learning yoga. We practice yoga at Escapades, Convergences and other meetups, share recommendations for yoga teachers, studios, retreats and amazing places to practice. We support each other in progressing our practices/healthy lifestyles while we travel. We help those new to yoga. No dues. Join us on Facebook. Send name, SKP# and interest to Theresé: tbjulo@yahoo.com Namaste.

Friends of Bill W: This group meets at Escapades and other Escapees gatherings. There are no dues or fees. Find a meeting or stay in contact with each other while traveling. Contact Noble or Cyd, 238 Rainbow Dr., #13852, Livingston, TX 77399-2038. 404-578-0864. noblecyd@reagan.com. To join, you need a Facebook account. Search for Cyd Wise (Livingston, TX) and send a friend request to be added.

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: 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/research trip hybrid) held annually. Info and advice are shared by Yahoo! group. Contact Albert at skpgenies@gmail.com or SKP Genealogy BoF, 142 Rainbow Dr., #4228, Livingston, TX 77399-1042.

Geocache: We provide a link enabling members to connect 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 Quartzsite, AZ, in late January, featuring morning seminars and afternoon caching outings. Communication is via Facebook or e-mail. No dues/fees. To join, contact Wendy: skpgeocacheBoF@gmail.com. Include address, names, SKP#, phone# and geocaching handle.

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 Karla at karlakmika@gmail.com.

Inward Bound: For the curious and the committed, from all religions and from no religion, this group explores universal spiritual themes, principles, and disciplines. This is a shared leadership virtual community, gathering monthly on Zoom, where each is both teacher and student. Our website is facebook.com/inward.bound. 583 Inward Bound BoF. Our email is InwardBoundbof@gmail.com.

Line Dancers Unite: Join for free to find classes, rallies and special events. Members contribute info on a city-by-city basis. Available websites 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: Margo@TheMaxwellGroup.net.

Low-Carb Lifestyle: If you're eating low-carb, join us! We're here to support and encourage each other online as well as during Convergences or our own meetups. Recipes and tips are welcome. We meet online in our Facebook and RVillage groups. Feel free to request membership in both. Send your name and SKP# to Julie: thewanderinggants@gmail.com, Lauren: desertlemon@gmail.com, Melissa: melissakadorian@gmail.com, or treemama@gmail.com.

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 231-288-4222 EscapeesBOFMilitary&Veterans@gmail.com.

Nomadic Families: Brings RV families together to share info about our lifestyle. Our mission is to promote exploration and freedom while still maintaining a sense of community. It's a place for traveling kids/teens to make lasting connections with others where they are treated as equals and encouraged to explore their surroundings, unhindered by societal standards. Our goals are to have many events each year, support Escapees/Xscaper family events and encourage our members to form their own gatherings. Contact: bofnomadicfamilies@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, elec, dump) is furnished. A current projects list is on NOMADS Website and visible only to its members, but with nationwide sites. To join visit www.nomadsumc.org or contact Doris 318-613-6599 jakdori@gmail.com.

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

Pet Lovers: For people who love animals. All pets welcome. Please join our Facebook group: Stay connected with animal-loving Escapees; get notices of occasional rallies and socials at Escapade. Juliet Whitfield: 970-729-2946, dogs@tailsfromtheroad.com, www.facebook.com/groups/EscapeesPetLovers

Prospecting and Metal Detecting: Share tips and information. To join our Yahoo! group SKP-PandMD, contact Ken Parsons by e-mail: rwsop606@gmail.com to get 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. kokopeggi@gmail.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 Brinkerhoff/Janine Vance, skpphotographers@gmail.com.

● **C-BoF (Certified BoFs):** Check the "Events Calendar" for a listing of group activities. For additional details, call their voice mail: 888-757-7701, plus extension—(DOVE x8083 and SOLOs x8080). BoF correspondence, questions and magazine listing updates should be sent to BoF Coordinator Lockie Sailer, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351-9300, faxed to 936-327-4388 or e-mailed to BoF@escapees.com

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. A closed Facebook group is used to connect. Free membership. To join, send SKP# to Larry Butler, at techcfo@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. Download member form: skpsolos.org/about/. Print form, complete and send with check, payable to Escapees SOLOs, to Escapees SOLOs, 1970 N. Leslie St #556, Pahrump, NV. 89060. Roy Kannada: royk1072@gmail.com.

SOWERs (Servants on Wheels): 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 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 travels allow. Free to join/no newsletters, just good times with great people! Contact Sean Miller, at seansmiller1@gmail.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

NEW! Twist Your Throttle: Is an informal Escapees group who share common interests in everything motorcycle. Our group is open to all types of Escapees motorcycle riders, passengers, and bikes. Our goal is to provide regular connections for motorcycle safety, repairs, rides, and awareness through online presentations specifically for Escapees who are on the move in an RV. There is no charge to join the group. www.twistyouthrottle.com or www.facebook.com/twistyouthrottle. Contact Lucinda Belden: lucinda@dwo.net

Whole-Food, Plant-Based (WFPB): This WFPB BoF group is for those interested in learning about and sharing information, Science and recipes for the WFPB way of eating. This group focuses on science-based health reasons for eating a mostly plant-based diet. No fees or dues. We'll share information on a Facebook page, Whole-Food, Plant-Based BOF SKP. Contact Ray Hatch: ray_h1941@yahoo.com or Lodema Hatch: LO1942@hotmail.com to join.

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 name, address, SKP# and \$5/year to John Ely, 3213 W. Main, #279, Rapid City, SD 57702. Newsletter sent 3x a year. 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 and SKP# to Kathy Howe, at wwtnews@gmail.com.



ESCAPEES RV Parks

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ALABAMA 	RAINBOW PLANTATION 14301 County Rd. 28, Summerdale, AL 36580 251-988-8132, Fax: 251-988-8142, plantation@escapees.com, rainbowplantation.escapeesrvparks.com	\$25	\$30	\$150	\$180	\$380+	\$415+
ARIZONA 	NORTH RANCH 30625 Hwy. 89, Congress, AZ 85332 928-427-3657, Fax: 928-685-3695, northranch@escapees.com, northranch.escapeesrvparks.com	\$22	\$26.50	\$132+	\$159	\$360+	\$415+
FLORIDA 	SUMTER OAKS RV PARK 4602 County Rd. 673, Bushnell, FL 33513 352-793-1333, Fax: 352-793-5216, sumteroaks@escapees.com, sumteroaks.escapeesrvparks.com	\$24	\$28.50	\$144	\$171	\$360+	\$395+
MISSOURI	TURKEY CREEK RV VILLAGE 1376 US 65 Business S., Hollister, MO 65672 417-335-8004, Fax: 417-335-4644, turkeycreek@escapees.com, turkeycreek.escapeesrvparks.com	\$20	\$24	\$120	\$144	\$360	\$395
NEW MEXICO	DREAM CATCHER RV PARK 4400 E. Pine St., Deming, NM 88030, 575-544-4004, Fax: 575-544-0944, dreamcatcher@escapees.com, dreamcatcher.escapeesrvparks.com	\$21	\$26	\$126	\$156	\$240+	\$250+
TENNESSEE	RACCOON VALLEY 908 E. Raccoon Valley Rd., Heiskell, TN 37754 865-947-9776, Fax: 865-947-9778, raccoonvalley@escapees.com, raccoonvalley.escapeesrvparks.com	\$23	\$30	\$138	\$180	\$400- \$550	\$445- \$570
TEXAS 	RAINBOW'S END 140 Escapees Dr., Livingston, TX 77351 936-327-1279, Fax: 936-328-8168, rainbowsend@escapees.com, rainbowsend.escapeesrvparks.com	\$22 \$24	\$27.50 \$28.50	\$132 \$144	\$165 \$171	\$340+ \$360+	\$395+ \$415+

SKP CO-OPS (ESCAPEES MEMBERS ONLY)

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ARIZONA	SAGUARO CO-OP 600 E. Saguaro Dr., #245, Benson, AZ 85602 520-586-7343, Fax: 520-586-4683, skpsaguaro@gmail.com, www.skpsaguaro.org	\$25 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax	\$130 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax	\$365 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax
	ROVERS ROOST 3241 S. Montgomery Rd., Casa Grande, AZ 85193 520-426-3589, Fax: 520-421-0105, rovers_roost@yahoo.com, www.roversroost.com	\$20	+ tax	\$110	+ Elec & tax	\$325	+ Elec
	KOFA KO-OP 3750 E. County 17th St., Yuma, AZ 85365 928-344-0645, 928-344-0900, office@kofako-op.com, www.kofako-op.com	\$23	Incl Elec	\$100	+ Elec & tax	-	-
CALIFORNIA	JOJOBA HILLS RESORT 45120 Hwy. 79 S., Aguanga, CA 92536 951-767-9130, office@jojobahills.com, jojobahills.com	\$35 limited	Incl Elec	\$199	Incl Elec	-	-
	PARK SIERRA 45323 Park Sierra Dr., Coarsegold, CA 93614 559-658-8696, Fax: 559-683-2179, parkoffice@parksierra.net, www.parksierra.net	\$21-26	Incl Elec, WiFi & CTV	\$112	+ Elec Incl WiFi & CTV	\$420	+ Elec Incl WiFi & CTV
FLORIDA	THE RESORT 2219 SKP Way, Wauchula, FL 33873 863-735-1499, Fax: 863-735-1994, skpresortwauchula@gmail.com, fl-skp-resort.org	\$20-23	+ Elec	\$140- 161	+ Elec	\$495- 575	+ Elec
NEVADA	PAIR-A-DICE 5150 Oakridge, Unit 2, Pahrump, NV 89048 775-727-7221, Fax: 775-727-3966, skppairdice@gmail.com	\$20 Incl Elec	-	\$125 Incl Elec	-	\$330 + Elec	-
NEW MEXICO	THE RANCH PO Box 109, Lakewood, NM 88254 575-457-2303, Fax: 575-457-2100, skpranch@pvtnetworks.net, skpranch.com	\$20	Incl Elec	\$125	Incl Elec	\$350	+Elec & Tax
OREGON	TIMBER VALLEY 800 S. State St., Sutherlin, OR 97479 541-459-4465, skptimbr@rosenet.net, www.timbervalleyskp.com	\$22	Incl Elec	\$132	Incl Elec	\$380	+ Elec
TEXAS	LONE STAR CORRAL 131 Private Rd. 5240, Hondo, TX 78861 830-363-7623, Fax: 830-363-5110, info@lonestarcorral.com, lonestarcorral.com	\$20	+ Elec	\$110	+ Elec	\$325	+ Elec
WASHINGTON	EVERGREEN COHO 2481 Anderson Lake Rd., Chimacum, WA 98325 360-385-6538, Fax: 360-379-5669, ecrskp@escapees.com, www.cohoskp.com	\$30.00 Incl Elec	+ tax	\$180.00 Incl Elec	+ tax	\$450	+ Elec

- The plus symbol (+) is used to indicate "plus electric."
- Additional charges may apply for 50-amp electric, pull-thru and/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.

EVENTS AND EXTRAS

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

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

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.

Raccoon Valley: Heiskell, TN

Local songwriters meet every Tuesday night. Thursday night, local jammers perform.

Jojoba Hills SKP Co-Op: Aguanga, CA

Join in the fun of many social activities. Enjoy pickleball, tennis, swimming, hiking, nightly games and Friday happy hour. Deserts and beaches are only one 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° 58.00'

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 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

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Evergreen CoHo: Chimacum, WA

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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.

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Battle Born Batteries.....	CM# 912.....	05
Central Florida RV Center.....	CM# 740.....	43
Classified Ads.....		86
Day's End Journal and Directory.....		32
DFW RV Roof.....	CM# 931.....	29
Fantasy RV Tours.....	CM# 830.....	84
FCIS Insurance.....	CM# 389.....	09
First National Bank.....	CM# 126.....	84
First State Bank.....	CM# 45.....	84
J Wright Concepts.....	CM# 829.....	84
KRW Packing.....		61
Magne Shade.....		59
Marketplace.....		84
Miller Insurance.....	CM# 285.....	43
Multigenerational Wealth Strategies.....	CM# 13.....	84
North Bay Ford & RV.....		84
Passport America Club.....		23
PPL Motor Homes.....		39
PROTENG® Distribution Inc.....	CM# 956.....	Cover
RV Comfort Systems, LLC.....	CM# 806.....	61
RV Driving School.....	CM# 3.....	84
RV Solar Electric.....	CM# 28.....	61
RVer's Ultimate Survival Guide book.....		08
RVTravel.com.....	CM# 932.....	84
SkyMed.....	CM# 85.....	Cover
The RVer's TV Show.....		13
Transfer Flow.....	CM# 908.....	17
Workamper, Inc.....	CM# 14.....	39
World of Outlaws.....	CM# 959.....	25

ESCAPEES RV Club® Advertising

Escapees CARE, Inc.....		24
Escapees Mail Service.....		75
Escapees Membership Application.....	Back Cover	
Escapees Veterans Discount Program.....		43
Escapees RVer's Boondocking Policy.....		74
Escapees RVer's Boot Camp.....		79
Escapees RVer's Good Neighbor Policy.....		88
Escapees RVOU.....		10
Escapees SmartWeigh Program.....		08
Xscapers.....		69

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- Commercial classifieds: \$20 per line, 5-line minimum, 5 percent discount for 6 issues or more. (To estimate length of ad lines, 35 characters and spaces equal one line.)
- To send ad copy: Mail your typed submission and payment to *Escapees* Magazine, Attn: Classified Ads, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351-9300, or send it, with a credit card number, to 936-327-4388 (fax) or e-mail advertising@escapees.com.
- 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

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Idaho State Parks: Recruiting volunteers now for summer 2021. Seeking active singles and couples as campground, special project, maintenance and visitor services hosts April—October 2021. FHU provided with a minimum of 30 days, 24–30 hrs/site. Enjoy

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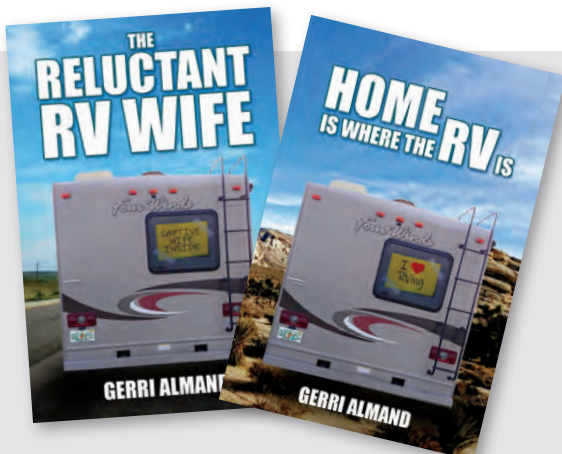
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FINAL JOURNEYS

Farewell to our Escapees Friends

The Escapees RV Club expresses sincere condolences to the families and friends of deceased members.

We appreciate notification of the deceased by caring friends; however, please obtain permission from a spouse or family member before submitting a notice for publication. Send notices to: *Escapees Magazine*, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, Texas 77351 or e-mail departmentseditor@escapees.com.

Gorsegner, John #31375-March 12, 2020: (Geri, 2063 S. Coyote Ave., Yuma, AZ 85364-6157) John died at age 86. We were married for 66 years and he was the love of my life. We were lifetime members of Escapees, Evergreen Chapter 5 and Chapter 7. We served as officers in both chapters and attended many rallies and Escapades. I highly recommend the Escapees for those who wish to full-time RV.

Igo, Richard, #37896-November 5, 2020: Richard was always interested in all-things aviation, he "slipped the surly bonds of earth" and "went to be among the clouds." His wife, Vera, preceded him in death on January 5, 2005. They were long-time residents at Timber Valley and had many fond memories of all their SKP adventures. (Submitted by Mark and Marlene Igo #50032.)

Labrecque, Betty Louise #2416-September 18, 2020: Betty died in Yuma, Arizona. She was a 1947 graduate of the Salem Hospital School of Nursing in Salem, Massachusetts, and a member of the Nurse Cadet Corp. In 1979 Betty and her husband, Ronnie, began an adventure traveling the United States and Canada by RV for over 25 years. They were part of the founding settlers of the Yuma, Arizona, KOFA KO-OP Escapees park. Betty loved her KOFA home, desert, friends and Escapees retreats. She also loved boondocking with friends. (Reported by daughter, Marion Freehan)

Miller, Ken #1102-April 27, 2020: (Bonnie, 581 Doe Lane SE, Albuquerque NM 87123) Ken died from severe Lewy body dementia and covid-19 after being at the VA psychiatric geriatrics unit since early February, when I could no longer care for him at home. He was diagnosed in 2012 but did fairly well until the last three years of his life. Ken and his first wife, Lee Scarborough, helped build Park Sierra and lived the full-time RV life until her death in 1996. We also lived full-time, traveling to every state after our marriage in January 1998, while Ken remodeled our home at North Ranch during the mid-winter months. After moving to New Mexico in early 2000, we were fortunate enough to travel this world visiting every continent except the Arctic. He loved RVing and international travel. I still live in Albuquerque.

Shafer, Cecil #9775-September 23, 2020: Cecil died at his son's home. He was a long-time HAM operator (N5CUR) and active with Chapter 7 and the HAM group in Quartzsite. He was also involved in AA for over 40 years. Cecil and his wife, Trudy, were lot owners at North Ranch. Trudy is in assisted living in Surprise, Arizona. Cecil and I fished in Canada many times. We had a plan; I cooked and he cleaned the boat. (Reported by friend Jack McGregor #4707.)

Steele, Judy #105774-July 21, 2020: (Clyde Gadeken, 1333 SE 207th Ave., Gresham, OR 97030) We traveled together for more than 10 years. I have a lot of good memories. I will continue to travel as long as I can and will miss her being with me.

Tharp, John #135628-June 25, 2020: (Janet, 102 Rainbow Dr., #71, Livingston, TX 77399-1002) John died after a short bout with cancer. We spent 25 years RVing all over the country. His wit and sense of humor will be sorely missed.

Wilson, Ron #67039-September 23, 2020: Ron lost his battle to cancer. He was a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars and served in the U.S. Navy as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Chief Petty Officer, a Navy Seal specializing as a master diver (underwater demolition) and expert marksman. He retired from the Navy at NAS Fallon in 1975 after serving 22.5 years. He met his beautiful bride, love of his life, and wife of 57 years, Nancy (Webber) when he was home on leave in 1962 and they were later married in Sheboygan, Michigan, in 1963. and began traveling the U.S. and Canada by RV in 2002 where he and Nancy met many great people and friends in the Escapees RV Club. (submitted by daughter, Lisa Rose)





Preserve the privilege of overnight parking.

Follow the code and encourage others to follow it, too!

Overnight Parking Etiquette

RVERS GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY

Dear Fellow RVers,

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

Some of the most respected RV consumer clubs have joined Escapees to support your privilege to park on private businesses' property overnight under the following code of conduct:

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

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

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

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

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

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

We wish you safe and happy travels,

ESCAPEES RV Club®



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- *Escapees* magazine (digital versions and archives online, too!)
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- RVers Boot Camp (fundamental RV training)
- SmartWeigh (accurate and detailed RV-weighting service)
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January/February 2021
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