

FIRESIDE EMBERS



January/February 2016
Volume XLV Issue 1



Free to Colorado **FCRV**
Members - Founded 1967

See the Costello's first State Directors Report on page 2

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2016**

**Colorado
FCRV
Welcomes Our
New State
Directors**

Ron and Shalah Costello

The Costello's inherited a Class C motor home in 2009. Knowing that neither one of them knew anything about a motor home, they looked for a group to camp with and learn what it was they didn't know. Ron and Shalah attended a RV show and stopped by the Family Camper's and RVers booth. They talked to several campers and decided to sign up to learn more. Ron and Shalah attended the Get Acquainted meeting and were hooked! They decided this was just what they were looking for to help them learn about camping-RV style.

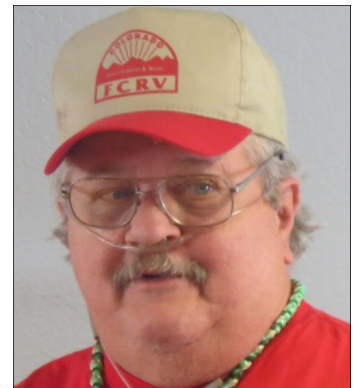
The Costello's chose to go with Rocky Ramblers and have been with them since April 2009. Not only did they learn about RV camping, but had fun camping with a group of people. Ron and Shalah have been President, Secretary and Board Members for the Ramblers.

In 2012, Loana Schraeder ap-

pointed Ron Costello as Corporate Sponsor Director. In the spring of 2015, Ron and Shalah stepped up to take on the State Directorship of Colorado, knowing they were going to be filling big shoes!

Ron is a semi-retired consultant working with businesses of all sizes to manage Government Contracts. Ron was involved with National Contract Management Association for 10 years. He held many positions including National Vice President. Shalah is presently on leave from her job at a financial institution. Shalah has worked in many administrative roles for several different companies. She worked 6 years with the Denver El Jebel Shrine as the Circus Coordinator. As Circus Coordinator, she worked with over 1000 volunteers to put on the circus yearly.

The Costello's look forward to working with Family Camper's and RVers in Colorado.



State Directors Report

WELCOME TO 2016 !!!



Here we are starting 2016. Shalah and I are starting to learn our new jobs as your State Directors. We are so grateful to have our trainer, Loana, available to help us moving forward. Loana is also still the Regional Director for Region 1. We are also thrilled to have the support of Jeff and Shirley Kendle as our Assistant State Directors. As far as our FCRV state activities are concerned, we anticipate no significant changes to either their content or their schedule. A "Dates To Remember" schedule is included in this edition of the Fireside Embers. Over the next two months, we will have the three RV shows, our February Planning meeting and the start of our Get Acquainted meetings, so it will be a busy time indeed.

It's January and we are already tired of snow and cold and not being able to get our rig out and go CAMPING. The good news is that winter is half way done. The bad news is that winter is only half way done! This next week-end we are going to visit our rig, start it up, look it over and make sure it is wintering well. We also plan to start a list of things we need to add or repair ahead of our spring camping start-up. This is an ideal time to get this stuff out of the way.

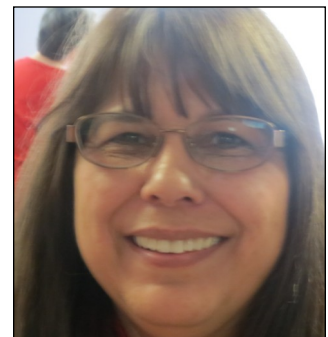
Another New Year's Resolution of ours is to take the stuff out of the motor-home and storage underneath that we haven't used recently. I know this likely won't happen because everything I look at is "something I'm sure we will need on our very next trip"

One of the goals that Shalah and I have had for a while has been to help our state web-site develop into a resource that we can all count on and use for our FCRV activities. Over the last couple of years, it has grown and changed in style and content and is currently more user-friendly than ever. Mike Ireson has done a miraculous job thus far. Mike has accepted some additional challenges for this year. Among other things, we hope to put our state event registrations on the web-site. We also plan to open a "Web-Store" on our site, featuring merchandise formerly only available during Spring Fling and Fall Statewide. In addition, we want to start being able to accept credit cards to pay for items, both on the web-site and at our state functions. The other thing that makes a web-site great is content that is both current and accurate. We must rely on our Chapter members and Officers to furnish this content, because no one volunteer can gather and publish enough material to be meaningful. This content can be trips you or your chapter have made, or events you have held or are going to hold, or information on your favorite campgrounds, or helpful hints on camping gear, or group activities, or favorite recipes. We can also post photos of your chapter members or activities, or other things that you think will interest your fellow members.

So, this is our first attempt at an introductory letter. We hope you enjoy it. We have met many of our Colorado members over the last year and hope to meet many more during this next year. We have to thank all of the State and Chapter volunteers who make Colorado FCRV the best program in the world for those of us who love camping in groups. We trust that these folks will always help Shalah and I to remember to, "Enjoy yourselves; it's just about the camping!!!" See ya soon.

Ron & Shalah

**Meet and greet your new
State Directors & Asst.
State Directors at the
Chapter Officers Work
Shop Saturday, February
13th.**



New Assistant State Directors - Jeff & Shirley Kendle

News & Updates

Dave Ludwig FCRV's current President recently resigned from his office. Shari Weber the current VP of Operations, by rule moved up to the Presidents office. The Trustees temporally filled her position with Hugh Hicks from Canada. When national elections are held these temporary officers will need to run for their office.

Remember that as of January 1st the National dues has changed to \$35 annually from \$30.

The first Denver RV Show finished up January 9th. Almost 400 brochures were handed out along with a map, dates of the Get Acquainted meetings and directions to each location. Those that gave their contact information at the booth will be called, emailed and/or mailed a reminder. From past experience we know that 95% of those who attend a Get Acquainted meeting end up joining FCRV. If you know of an interested prospect please bring them to a meeting. The dates and locations are in this issue in the date to remember.

The Cadet Member Program is still ongoing. You can give a prospect 6 months of free membership. Get the materials from your Field Director or contact Bill Eckman the State Membership Director.

If you have not looked at our Colorado FCRV website lately, please do. There are many changes and lot's of information. You can read the current Embers and also look back at previous issues if you missed one.

Sometime this fall the printed edition of the Embers will be mailed only to those who sign up for or opt in to receive the printed copy. The form for that is below. It will always be free but if you don't request a printed copy you can read the Embers on the website. Currently we mail just under 800 copies every other month. The cost of printing the Embers and postage is a big portion of our budget. Ron Costello our State Director feels we can better use the funds saved in promoting membership.

Your Field Director should be asking their chapters to complete a chapter profile. If your chapter wants new members from the RV Shows then we must have a chapter profile. These need to be sent to Loana Schraeder ASAP or no later than February 1st.

Don't forget to shop our advertisers and Corporate Sponsors who always have an ad in the Embers. If there is service, a product you need or a campground check with them first. Be sure to tell them you are a member of Colorado FCRV.

Delivery of the Fireside Embers is Changing -- Fall 2016

Beginning in the late summer/early fall of 2016, our primary method of delivering your Embers newsletter will be changing from "snail" mail to electronic mail. BUT, if you want to continue receiving your Embers by regular mail, you can easily do that. Just fill out the form below and mail it in or send your request by e-mail to Rcostello@coloradofcrv.org

If you don't need a printed copy of the Embers, then your Field Director will E-Mail you a copy of the Embers in Adobe (PDF) format every other month, as it is published. To view the newsletter, you can download and install a free copy of the Adobe Reader software from our coloradofcrv.org website. Between now and next summer your Field Director should contact you and make sure he or she has your correct and current E-Mail address. For those Colorado FCRV members who do not belong to a chapter, your State Directors or Assistant State directors will make sure we have your current E-Mail and then will send your copy of the Embers to you. The current copy of the Embers, along with several years of prior issues are also available on our website for your easy reference.

Embers Opt-In

Yes, I want to continue receiving my printed copy of the Embers.

Cut out & Mail to: Ron and Shalah Costello

352 Mountain Cloud Circle
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

or e-mail to: Rcostello@coloradofcrv.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Signature: _____

E-mail address: _____

WIN A PRIZE

Inside this printed issue is a mistake and it is not a spelling error, even though there may be some. The first 10 people who email me with the correct answer will win a prize.

I will hand you your prize when I see you at the February 13th Workshop.

You must attend the Workshop to receive your gift. Bill Eckman weckman@msn.com

Farewell

Wilber “Will” Wayne Benham, was born in Leon, Oklahoma, December 23, 1934, to Wilber M. and Ellene M. Benham. Died on January 6, 2016 in the presence of family at Littleton Adventist Hospital.

He attended elementary school in Oklahoma and High School in Colorado. He attended Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado. He worked and retired from Martin Marrietta as an electronic instructor and test engineer.

He married Evelyn Vodean Beek June 10, 1956 in Cheyenne Wells, Colorado. His family includes five children Ron, Debra, Jeanie, Tamra, and Kevin.

He enjoyed fishing, bowling, stargazing, coaching and refereeing soccer. He became a member of National Camping and Hiking Association (Family Camper and RVer's) in 1968 and held many offices for the Mountain Goats Chapter.

He is survived by wife, Vodean, children, Ron Benham, Debbie (Pug) Meredith, Jeanie (Steve) Marks, Tamra (Glenn) Hayden-Rice, Kevin (Amy) Benham, eight grandchildren, Erika, Jeromy, Heidi, Holly, Cortnee, Perry, Talen and Kiah and two great grandchildren, Lily and Violet, brothers, Charles, Melvin, Drexel and many nieces and nephews.



Please do not send flowers. Donations may be made to ArtReach: <http://www.artreachdenver.org/index.php>

A Memorial Service will be held and when plans are finalized a notice will be sent out. If you want to send a card to Vodean her address is:

5452 S. Camargo Road - Littleton, CO 80123

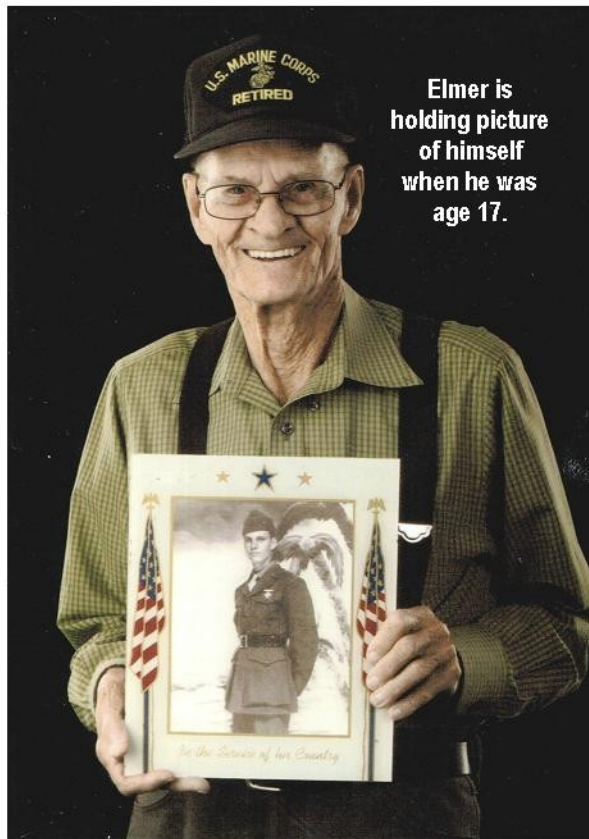
Chaplains Corner

Well, here we are starting another year, 2015 has passed into history, and it is time to get into the New Year, 2016. As I thought about the past year with all the bad weather, tragedies, shootings and wars, I felt it would be nice to rerun the New Year article from 2014 as I think we can all relate to it, so here it is.

Two thousand years ago during the first Christmas two gifts were offered to mankind, peace on earth and good will towards man. What if we could make a resolution to become peacemakers and bring peace and good will to our community? Let me tell you a story about a young peacemaker. During the Vietnam War, a photo was taken of a nine year girl named Phan Tai Kim Phue. During a battle between North and South Vietnamese troops, an American commander ordered South Vietnamese aircraft to drop napalm bombs on her tiny village. Two of her brothers were killed and she was badly burned. Wearing no clothes, she fled up the road toward the cameraman. Because of the pain her arms were held out sideways and her mouth is open in a cry of agony. She suffered third degree burns over fifty percent of her body. She lived and endured fourteen months of painful rehabilitation and scores of skin grafts. Since then she married, and became a Christian, with the hope of attending Bible College. In 1996 she accepted invitations to several ceremonies at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial where she laid a wreath and spoke of forgiveness. After speaking of all of her pain and suffering, she was given a standing ovation. God saved my life and gave me hope. Even if I could talk face to face with the pilot who dropped the bombs, I would tell him, we cannot change history, but we should try to do good things for the present, and for the future to promote peace.

“Those who suffer the most can be the greatest peacemakers”. We do not have to suffer as she did to promote peace and be a peace maker, we can be peacemakers in our homes, and in our community. May we all make a new year's resolution to be a peace maker, to bring peace and good will to all we meet in 2016. May you and yours have a happy and peaceful new year.

Chaplain Larrie Thomase and family



Elmer is holding picture of himself when he was age 17.

GRAY WOLVES MEMBER ON HONOR FLIGHT TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Gray Wolves member, Elmer Carter, a veteran of World War II, was invited to go on the Honor Flight to Washington D.C. in October. Elmer, accompanied by his step-daughter, joined with 43 other WWII veterans from around the state for this special recognition and appreciation time for their service to our country.

Honor Flights, the brainchild of a retired Air Force captain who had spent 27 years as a physician's assistant serving World War II veterans, began in 2005. On the first trip, six private pilots ferried a dozen vets to Washington to see the memorial that honored their service. "If these vets weren't the greatest generation, we wouldn't be the land of the free and home of the brave," exclaimed one pilot as he welcomed them aboard one of the later flights.

Elmer Carter was sworn into the Marine Corp on March 11, 1944. He was seventeen at the time and after boot camp and some special training, was promptly sent by troopship to Saipan. The battle of Saipan was over, but he saw quite a bit of action before moving on to the invasion of Okinawa. As his troopship took him back to Saipan, Kamikaze pilots were everywhere, but luckily none hit his

ship. Elmer was on Saipan when the war ended on August 14, 1945. A short time after the atomic bomb destroyed the port city of Nagasaki, Elmer and his fellow Marines spread through the city and on further into Japan where the remaining airfields and fuel tanks needed to be destroyed. After his troopship landed in San Diego, Elmer realized he really wasn't ready to go back home in Kansas, so he re-enlisted for two more years. One enlistment led to another, until Elmer retired from the Marines in 1964.

Elmer states this Honor Flight was a very special occasion for him. As he joined the 43 other veteran's from Colorado, many frail and weak and in wheelchairs, he realized how few of the original 16 million WWII servicemen were left.

He said all the vets and their escorts were put up at the Hilton for this all-expense paid occasion. They even crammed in one full day of touring the World War II Memorial and the Wall of Stars. This wall had 4048 stars, each star representing 100 servicemen killed in WWII. The Honor Flight participants toured the Roosevelt Monument where they ran into a bunch of high school students from Canada and they shared this unique time together. They toured Arlington National Cemetery and watched the Changing of the Guard. They drove by the Marine Monument and the awe-inspiring Korean Monument. Everywhere the bus went, these WWII vets were met by cheering grateful crowds. To top off this momentous trip, they even had two police escorts, one car in front of the Honor Flight bus, and one following the bus. These police cars, complete with flashing lights, accompanied the bus all the way from DIA to Colorado Springs!

Elmer, the Gray Wolves and all of FCRV salute you! Elmer will be age 88 January 31, 2016.

Wanda Parkhouse
Gray Wolves



Wall of Stars.
Elmer is not pictured here.

2016 DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Jan 6 th – 9 th	N/A	Colorado RV Adventure Travel Show	Colorado Convention Center 14th & California Denver, CO
Jan 15 th	11:00 AM	Colorado Retiree Luncheon	Cinzetti's Italian Buffet I-25 & 104 th Ave.
Feb 5 th – 7 th	N/A	Colorado Springs RV Show	The Event Center @ Rustic Hills 1700 N. Academy Colorado Springs, CO
Feb 8 th	7:00 – 8:30 PM	Get Acquainted Mtg. 1 st Denver Show	Cabela's Outfitters Exit 226 off of I-25 N 14050 Lincoln St. Thornton, CO
Feb 9 th	7:30 – 9:00 PM	Get Acquainted Mtg. 1 st Denver Show	REA Bldg. Exit 262 off of I-25 N 7649 REA Parkway Windsor, CO
Feb 13 th	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Chapter Officers Workshop/Planning Mtg.	Arvada Presbyterian Church 5592 Independence St. Arvada, CO
Feb 15 th	7:30 – 9:00 PM	Get Acquainted Mtg. 1 st Denver Show	Gander Mountain Outfitters 14000 E. Jewell Ave. Aurora, CO
Feb 25 th – 28 th	N/A	Colorado RV, Sports, Boat & Travel Show	National Western Stock Show Complex 4566 Humboldt St. Denver, CO
Mar 7 th	7:00 – 8:30 PM	Chapter's Night Mtg. 1 st Denver Show	Cabela's Outfitters Exit 226 off of I-25 N 14050 Lincoln St. Thornton, CO
Mar 8 th *	7:30 – 9:00 PM	Chapter's Night Mtg. 1 st Denver Show	REA Bldg. Exit 262 off of I-25 N 7649 REA Parkway Fort Collins, CO
Mar 8 th	7:30 – 9:00 PM	Get Acquainted Mtg. Colo. Spgs. Show	International Salon & Spa Academy 5707 N. Academy Blvd. Colo. Spgs, CO
Mar 10 th	7:00 – 9:00 PM	Chapter's Night Mtg. 1 st Denver Show	Gander Mountain Outfitters 14000 E. Jewell Ave. Aurora, CO
Mar 15 th – 21 st	N/A	National Retiree Rally	Houma, Louisiana
Apr 4 th	7:00 – 8:30 PM	Get Acquainted Mtg. 2 nd Denver Show	Cabela's Outfitters Exit 226 off of I-25 N 14050 Lincoln St. Thornton, CO
Apr 5 th *	7:30 – 9:00 PM	Get Acquainted Mtg. 2 nd Denver Show	REA Bldg. Exit 262 off of I-25 N 7649 REA Parkway Fort Collins, CO
Apr 5 th	7:30 – 9:00 PM	Chapter's Night Mtg. Colo. Spgs. Show	International Salon & Spa Academy 5707 N. Academy Blvd. Colo. Spgs, CO
Apr 12 th	7:30 – 9:00 PM	Get Acquainted Mtg. 2 nd Denver Show	Gander Mountain Outfitters 14000 E. Jewell Ave. Aurora, CO
Apr 29 th – May 1 st	N/A	Field Staff Workshop & Campout	Fort Collins KOA Lakeside in Ft. Collins, CO
May 2 nd	7:00 – 8:30 PM	Chapter's Night Mtg. 2 nd Denver Show	Cabela's Outfitters Exit 226 off of I-25 N 14050 Lincoln St. Thornton, CO
May 3 rd *	7:30 – 9:00 PM	Chapter's Night Mtg. 2 nd Denver Show	REA Bldg. Exit 262 off of I-25 N 7649 REA Parkway Fort Collins, CO
May 4 th	7:00 – 9:00 PM	Chapter's Night Mtg. 2 nd Denver Show	Gander Mountain Outfitters 14000 E. Jewell Ave. Aurora, CO
May 12 th – 15 th	N/A	Spring Fling	Morgan County Fairgrounds in Brush, CO
June 6 th – 10 th	N/A	Colorado Retiree Rally	Fort Collins KOA Lakeside in Ft. Collins, CO
July 24 th – 29 th	N/A	National Campvention 2016	Shawnee, Oklahoma
Sep 2 nd – 5 th	N/A	Colorado Statewide	Elbert County Fairgrounds in Kiowa, CO
Sep 26 th – 30 th	N/A	Southern Colorado Retiree Rally	Pueblo South Colorado City KOA I-25 @ Exit 74 – South of Pueblo
Sep 30 th – Oct 2 nd	N/A	Field Staff Workshop & Campout	Pueblo South Colorado City KOA I-25 @ Exit 74 – South of Pueblo

* = tentative dates, not confirmed yet as of December 29, 2015

Chapter News

Golden Nuggets

Final Year End Activities

Well the GNs wrapped up the end of the year with a final campout at the ever lovely Mountaindale RV Park just south of Colorado Springs in September. They had great accommodations for our group, with the use of their facility room with fireplace, movies, tables, couches and chairs, etc. They provided group size grills for our use so we had it all. We were able to reserve the use of the room for our meals and evening games. We had all of our



group's rigs there, with the exception of one last minute cancellation due to family concerns. Our group places family high on our list of importance. We were also able to secure a great group rate with Mountaindale.

With happy hour every day from around 3:30 to 5:00 and then on to dinner, both group and individual time was productive. It was a great social time to catch up on everyone's activities and pass along RV knowledge of happenings on individual treks. Their facility room had great tables for our group meals and we could downsize tables for games in the evening. We had one planned activity for our group to the Royal Gorge near Canon City. Beautiful area to visit, and they have done a great job of rebuilding since their fire.

Pictured here is our cleanup crew with plenty of supervisors watching over, ha ha!

We completed the year with restaurant visits to Red Lobster in October, Cheddars in November, and The Great Wall in December. Our Christmas Great Wall visit had great accommodations for us in a private room where we could do our annual card exchange and along with cards there were many surprise treats made by members for our group. Games, great food, wrapped up our year and as usual no one leaves hungry. We were even able to include a game for our last activity in 2015 that resulted in a gift wrapped 'surprise' for all. Submitted by *Jim & Adriana Harbison/Munoz*



Colorado Gold and Silver Sponsors

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- **KOA Pueblo So./Colorado City**
- **KOA Lakeside Ft. Collins**

These Gold and Silver Sponsors will always have an ad in the Embers. We encourage all Colorado FCRV members to support these sponsors when you need their products or services.

SILVER SPONSORS

- **All Stars RV**
- **Arrowhead Point Campground & Cabins**
- **Hitch Corner**



Did you know that we have dozens of door prizes at the Workshop? It all happens on Saturday, February 13th at 9:00AM. The only way you can be a winner is to show up. Map on back page.

Chapter News

Ute Pass Crickets



Never a dull moment for the Ute Pass Crickets. We're still going strong as ever. 2015 marked our 45th anniversary as an FCRV chapter. That makes us either the oldest chapter in FCRV or very nearly the oldest! We thank the Board of Directors for recognizing this mighty milestone!

Both our camping season and our off season were great fun, as usual. We've been keeping a happy tradition of camping in springtime at the Colorado City KOA; the site and service there is always beyond compare. To add to the excitement there, the hosts and cohosts organized a group activity that sent teams in search of the names of famous and legendary cowboys and cowgirls, along with their trusty steeds. Members were given photos of Hollywood Western movie greats, from the Lone Ranger and Mr. Ed - to Zorro and John Wayne. Coffee table books and CD's from the local library, plus cell phones or laptops helped us in the effort to gather all the names. Winners received Lone Ranger masks! Most of our campouts are that much fun.

In the off season, we have at least as much fun as the camping season. With all the great cooks and bakers in our Chapter, we always celebrate excellent holiday feasts. This Thanksgiving, we added baked ham to our huge Turkey potluck. And the Christmas banquet was particularly special as it was held at one of our member's home. A delicious cordon bleu dished was served as the main course by our hosts and the rest of us brought yummy side dishes. We sang, told jokes, and enjoyed a very festive party. Our hosts followed an Old World German custom of distributing Christmas Pickle ornaments. According to tradition, the pickle ornament is tucked in an out of sight branch of the Christmas tree. On Christmas morning, the first family member to spot the pickle was rewarded with a special blessing for the coming year and received the first present under the tree. And speaking of presents, we all brought with us to the Christmas luncheon gifts for boys and girls to donate to the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots." The year started out with a bang and ended with a burst of goodwill! Happy New Year to you all from the Ute Pass Crickets! Submitted by *Bob & Patty DesRochers*



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Bill Eckman
40600 Ranch Road
Elizabeth, CO 80107
weckman@msn.com

Editor:

Bill Eckman
303-841-6878

Send change of address
notification to:

Colorado Chapters of FCRV



Article submission is for chapters, program chairmen and members who have news or interesting articles or classified ads that they would like to share with the membership. It will be included, space permitting in the next issue.

(Please type or print information & include your name, address and phone number)

Chapter News

Colorado Cruisers

Christmas 2015 for Colorado Cruisers

Well, Old Man Winter tried to put a crimp on our celebratory mood, but most of our crew were able to wade through the snow and traffic to get to the KOA in Fountain, Colorado for our annual Christmas Party on 12 December. Let me tell you, this place was just perfect for our meet-up. The KOA staff had decorated a tree, festive centerpieces on the tables, a disco ball, and Christmas lights everywhere – just a lovely facility. Our fearless hosts and co-hosts were Abe and Karleen Williams, and Chuck and Marilyn Clark.

The four hosts arrived the day before the feast, to SMOKE THE MEATS! Sounds like a commercial! ;) Brisket and ribs, down home side dishes, a homemade cookie and candy buffet, and impeccable friends to share it with! You couldn't ask for a better combination.

Abe regaled us with great Christmas CD's, Karleen had us all scratching our heads to come up with answers to a Christmas Trivia game, and then we tackled the white elephant gifts – there were so many! The members that attended decorated elf hats to reflex their Christmas spirit or personality. What a diverse group of characters that makes up the Colorado Cruisers. The evening ended with dancing - nobody can do The Hokey Pokey and The Chicken Dance better than our rocking members.

The 2016 season will kick-off with a January dinner at Olive Garden. Adventures will continue throughout the year as the Colorado Cruisers enjoy different winter meeting locations and venture to new campgrounds to enjoy all that Colorado has to offer.

Submitted by Cheri Loyche



Rolling Springs

The Rolling Springs November meeting was held at Texas T-Bone. Ten families were represented as we installed new officers for the upcoming year and planning continued for the camping/meeting 2016 schedule.

December snow and a warm meal brought the Rolling Springs to gather at Marigolds Café. Cozy inside as the snow was flying outside gave us a picture perfect back drop for celebrating Christmas with a toy drive with gifts for Christmas Unlimited, and a Christmas ornament gift exchange for our members. The event would not have been complete without the very popular Ugly Sweater contest. Congratulations to the winners, #1 Cheryl McCarthy, #2 John Kosman and #3 Shannon Kosman, great job on your ugly sweaters!

New Year's Eve we gather at Jose Muldoon's for a time to reflect on the past year and how blessed we are to be with our dear friends and Family Camping family. A giant thank you to each and every member and all the time and effort you all have given to make our campouts and meetings possible. Looking forward to 2016.

Submitted by Candy Furnish

Chapter News

Rocky Explorers

The Rocky Explorers were happy to spend the weekend at Chatfield Reservoir in September, but sad to see our camping season end. We had a great time socializing and enjoying the fall weather. Our cadet members, Mike and Tonya had an impromptu Dutch-oven cooking demonstration.

In October, the Rocky Explorers provided a Halloween-themed dinner to the parents and siblings staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Denver. We love providing a meal for these parents, giving them a chance to enjoy a meal and who can provide food better than the Rocky Explorers! We had 'frosted' meatloaf, Terrifying Tamale Pie, 'Shrunken Head' Punch, Eyeball and Spider deviled eggs, Mummy Links, Mac'O'Lantern (mac and cheese decorated), and a Pumpkin with fruit kabobs as an edible table decoration. All our members donated candy to be made into trick or treat bags and we decorated the tables and the dining room.



We would also like to welcome new members to the Rocky Explorers! Lisa Koch and Kevin O'Conner, Dave and Farah Born, and Tim and Tracy Sanders in August. Mike and Kim Randel were added in October. Welcome to the club!

In November, we had a full turnout for our 2016 Planning Meeting. We are going to be doing so many fun activities and campouts! We held club elections and voted in new members to almost every position! Thanks to the Hardy's who hosted the event and stepped down as Chapter President after many years. A hard act to follow!

In December, we had a holiday party with dinner at the Country Buffet and a trip to the Denver Zoo for Wildlights. It was great fun, but pretty cold.



The Rocky Explorers are looking forward to some Stock Show fun and a dinner theater outing, having fun and making reservations for the summer!

Submitted by *Cindy Kotary*



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At the Work Shop Saturday, February 13th we need input from all of our chapters. It is your ideas that we use to plan for Spring Fling and Fall Statewide. Chapters please have someone there to contribute and help out.

Chapter News

OOPS

Wow what a busy year OOPS had in 2015 ending with our Christmas Party at the White Fence Farm on December 6th. We had well over 40 family, friends, children and even Santa and Mrs. Clause were there. A great time was had by all good food, visiting with friends our Adult gift exchange and of course Santa had gifts for all of the kids.



We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and that the New Year brings nothing but the best to you and your family. Our OOPS 2016 year will start off with a campout on April 22-24 to Saint Vrain State Park then it's off to Spring Fling, Chatfield, Great Sand Dunes, Mueller State Park, Boyd Lake, Lake Minatare, M- Lazy-C Dude Ranch, Statewide Cheyenne Mountain and of course Halloween at Cherry Creek so it looks like we will have another very busy camping season in 2016.

Submitted by *Ed & Vickie Brunner* Field Directors

Colorado Eagles



Our October "outing" was to Jay's Restaurant in North Denver, hosted by Howard and Diana Bowman. It is a nice place with a great view of Denver. The view would have been even better if not for the fog but it was still a good place to eat. If you haven't been there and are at loose ends for a new place to eat you might give it a try. There were 30 of us in attendance which is a great turnout! It is always fun to get together and see what everyone is doing when not camping. We also did selection of Officers for 2016, to be voted on next month.

November's meeting was hosted by George and Sally Hoyland at Hickory House in Parker (you can't miss the covered wagon parked in the front) with 33 in attendance. At this rate we may soon need a Hall to have a meeting. It is always great to see everyone and especially since Officers are voted in this month. This year our meeting fell on Veterans days and all our Veterans were acknowledged for their service and presented with a flag. Our Officers were voted on and confirmed and it was great to see so many people wanting to retain their positions for the coming year. Thank you to all! We also had 3 guests.



December is our Christmas Party and the Luginbill's hosted the get-together at the Methodist Church in Brighton. It is always a potluck which means more food than anyone can eat but we sure do try. We do a Christmas card exchange and visit and eat some more. We eventually roll ourselves out to the cars thinking we will not have to eat again for at least a **month**!

To all our Colorado campers, we wish you a healthy and **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Submitted by *Angel Ireson*

Chapter News

Coyotes

In August Lyttles hosted our campout at [Arrowhead Point](#) Resort in Buena Vista. We had a very entertaining speaker from the Chaffee County Historical Society for our opening social hour; Susy Kelly outlined how the settlement of Buena Vista (pronounced locally as “Biewna Vista”) came alive and flourished. Coyotes prowled the BV area to check out local restaurants, and visit St Elmo ghost town, shopping at the General Store. The Coyotes yowled “Ole!” to a bountiful taco bar potluck.

September found a band of Coyotes in Chama, NM camping and riding the [Cumbres & Toltec](#) RR, hosted by Bowsers and Hagers. After check-in at [Sky Mountain RV](#) resort we enjoyed a social hour with root beer floats and discussed details of the train ride, which provided several combinations for bus or train between Chama and Antonito. We enjoyed a buffet lunch in Osier included in the train ticket. [The next day we relaxed with](#) hiking, biking, fishing, shopping, and site seeing followed by a potluck dinner featuring Sloppy Joes plus side dishes and desserts.



Our last campout of the year was in October at Horsetooth Reservoir, hosted by Melton & McNelly. We enjoyed “real campfire cooking” when everyone brought ingredients to assemble foil dinner pouches to be cooked in the fire. We had a presentation by



Julie Scott, paramedic from *Poudre Valley Health Systems*, who explained when to call an ambulance (ALWAYS!), what to expect, where we are taken, when we are not charged (no need of transport), and how charges are determined. She also explained why a fire truck and EMT always respond first and what they can do versus what a paramedic on an ambulance does to better a victim’s chances of survival. She also discussed early signs of stroke and early (home) treatment for possible heart attack (Call 911, then chew 4 baby aspirin and unlock the door!) She gave us a tour of an ambulance and took time to answer all of our questions.

Coyotes then banded for a *Ghost Walk of Ft. Collins* - Guides Ann and Shirley, very stylishly dressed in 1890’s couture, led us around and under Old Towne to tell us some of its history and show us some of its more colorful (mostly dark!) sites, including those where ghosts have reportedly been encountered. While they made no appearance to us, several Coyotes did sense in something out of the norm in a few of the basements toured.

November we gathered for a potluck dinner at the Halling home. Tax accountant Ron Vejrostek presented his new book, *Financially Intact*, and reviewed information in the book concerning the latest scams such as IRS “threats”, Publishers’ Clearing House “winnings”, “Credit Card Member Services” claiming your card has been compromised, internet dating, and related spins and shams.



In December Powers hosted our annual Christmas party in their home. We enjoyed a potluck dinner and gift exchange, which included tasty, tasteful and entertaining gifts. This year there was only one flashlight, and no “white elephants”!

Submitted by Lyle & Marilyn Luttrell

At the Work Shop Saturday, February 13th we will have break out sessions for each officer of a chapter. This a great time to get ideas for your office you hold. If you have been through this before, come and share your knowledge.

Chapter News

Columbines

November brought all of the Columbines together to be thankful for the year that the group enjoyed. We met at Sweet Tomatoes at Park Meadows for the annual Thanksgiving event. We collected a trunk load of toys for the Jeffco action center. There will be lots of happy children. Thanks to the Chamberlin's & Keaney's for setting up & organizing the event.



December meeting was hosted by Leon Meurer and Sandy Onnen at Las Brisas. Leon and Sandy provided the table decorations to brighten up the festive season. The group collected items for "2015 Helping the Homeless" Gloves, hats, socks and essentials. All of it is well needed this time of year. Good food, good fellowship was had by all. The Columbines wish all FCRV families a "Merry Christmas and a Healthy Happy new year" Submitted by Carol Peterson



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WOW!

We have a record number of Chapter News articles. Thanks so much for your participation. However there are many chapters we have never heard from so ask someone in your chapter to step up and be your chapter reporter. Also program directors let's hear from you. What are your plan for the Teens, Youth, DASAT, CAMP, First Aid & Safety, Historian, Legislative, Membership, Conservation and Retirees? Remind us what your program is about. Maybe you need some volunteers to help during the year. Let's hear from you. I will send out a reminder email to the field staff about 10 days before each edition. *Bill Eckman - Editor*

Chapter News

Road Runners

Where did 2015 go? To sum up 2015, The Roadrunners toured a railroad museum, cancelled a big NASCAR Daytona party due to a major snow storm, and camped at various places like Grand Lake, Red Feather Lakes area, and Cripple Creek—all during the warm months, of course. The Roadrunners were also well represented in July at the Campvention, with fourteen members attending and working. Various jobs included team leaders over various committees (Nesvold's), assistant team leaders, assistant treasurer, photographers, golf cart management, and parade organizers. While all fourteen members worked hard at volunteering each day, the group came together each evening for good food and times!

In October, the annual chili feast was hosted by Mike and Connie Davidson at Riverview RV park in Loveland, with 15 rigs attending. Each year, the chili consists of members adding whatever ingredients they wish to contribute to the big pot. Fortunately, the chili has always been scrumptious and we say we will be unable to top it the next year, but it seems we do!! A few games of bean bag baseball were played by this very competitive group and officers were also elected during this campout. Thanksgiving dinner was hosted by Erv and Alice Zimmer, who graciously took over the hosting of this feast from Norm and Cari Kellett, as they were in the middle of moving.

That brings us to December, when on a very cold night, the group gathered by a fireplace instead of a campfire for a festive gathering and meal at Malone's, hosted by the Kellett's. The group cleans up pretty well, so we decided to capture it in a photograph!! 2015 wrapped up with two couples as prospective new members.

Plans for 2016 are pretty much in place! We will try once again to have a Daytona 500 party in February for all our NASCAR fans, a dinner event in March, with camping starting in April. Campouts will be at some of the usual places—Parish Ranch, Riverview, Colorado City, and the Red Feather Lakes area. A couple of high lights will be a trip that includes boarding a train and having dinner/attending a concert on top of LaVeta pass and another trip to the wine country in Palisades. Here is to a fabulous year of camping and fellowship!! Submitted by *Connie Davidson*



Chapter News

Trailblazers

Our November luncheon ended up being canceled due to inclement weather. Blowing snow, icy roads, and very cold temperatures kept all the Trailblazers at home. We had beautiful weather for our December luncheon. Christmas cards were exchanged while everyone enjoyed a very tasty lunch.

Due to November's canceled luncheon, Trailblazer officers were sworn in at the start of the meeting. Vicki Patterson, President; Cathy Vegvary, Vice-President; and Sue Frindt, Secretary, will continue their roles in the Trailblazers for another year. We'd like to thank Dawn Skillman for taking on the job of Treasurer.

Our campouts are decided for 2016. Our destinations in Colorado include Canon City, Chatfield State Park, Westcliffe, Mueller State Park, and LaVeta. We're also looking forward to Taos, New Mexico -- a new destination for us in the fall. The Trailblazers wish everyone a very Happy New Year and many camping adventures in 2016!

Submitted by *Cathy Vegvary*

Trailblazer Officers (L-R)
Cathy Vegvary, Vice-President;
Dawn Skillman, Treasurer
Sue Frindt, Secretary;
not shown, Vicki Patterson, President



RV Rascals

On a beautiful, cool Colorado day, RV Rascals members Dennis and Jan Combs hosted the chapter's November meeting at the Perkins Restaurant east of Loveland. Congratulations were given to Jennifer Kingston on her retirement as a nurse from NCMC; we wish her and her husband, Dan, many adventures in this new chapter of their life. On a sad note, we were informed two couples are leaving active status of our chapter; but on a happy note, Tresa & Garland Woods attended for the third time and expressed their wish to join the RV Rascals, and guests Gene & Sue Hall attended this meeting as prospective Rascals. Members brought 201 lbs. of canned goods to this meeting that were donated to the Weld County Food Bank, and during the meeting, members selected their month to host during our 2016 season.

(Only 146 days to our first campout!)

December's meeting, hosted by Gary & Mary Ann Merritt and Brian & Betty Seeman, started with a tour of the *Stranahan Colorado Whiskey* distillery in Denver and concluded at Merritt's home for snacks, our meeting, and a white elephant gift



exchange. (And contrary to rumors, the gaiety and conviviality of this gathering had nothing to do with the distillery tour; all merriment was only because of the festive time of the year and the natural good humor of our members.)

Like the anticipation of opening presents on Christmas morning, the RV Rascals are looking forward to the announcement by next year's hosts of the locations for our upcoming monthly outings. We wish a VERY Merry Christmas to every FCRV member.

Submitted by *Linda Snyder*



~~~ "And now we welcome the new year, full of things that have never been." ~~~ Rainer Maria Rilke

## Chapter News

### Star Gazers

#### NOVEMBER AT THE FARM

The Star Gazers headed for White Fence Farm in Lakewood in November. The main activity offered at White Fence Farm is EATING, and we all know how to excel in that! They start with unlimited bowls of bean salad, cole slaw, cottage cheese, and the wonderful sweet corn muffins. After a few rounds of these appetizers, out come platters of steaming hot fried chicken and turkey dinners, with more sides of mashed potatoes and gravy. When everyone was filled up completely, nobody even mentioned the word "dessert".

We were able to hold our monthly meeting, with more planning for next year. Twenty six members attended. Mike and Geri Noland were hosts.

#### BUFFALO RUN FOR CHRISTMAS

Our final gathering of the year took place on a snowy Saturday night at the Bison Grille at Buffalo Run Golf Course in Commerce City. We enjoyed a buffet dinner featuring roast beef and pork tenderloin and ending with hot peach cobbler, chocolate cake and cookies. All were in high spirits for the holidays and some were decked out in Christmas sweaters and one disturbingly funny dancing Santa hat.

After our business meeting, we had our very entertaining white elephant gift exchange. It is always interesting to see what people come up with for white elephant gifts. After lots of laughter and good-natured banter, we finished with a group photo and headed home. It's hard to believe another year has ended, but all are looking forward to 2016.

We had 25 members and guests at this party, which was hosted by Mike and Tami Anderson.

Submitted by *Pam McCuskey*  
Secretary, Star Gazers



## Chapter News

### Star Chasers

In November the Star Chasers met for their monthly get-to-gether at the Country Buffett in Aurora, CO. Sheryl Heidenreich was the host and we thank her setting up the lunch meeting. The room was festive as Sheryl decorated the tables for Fall and held drawings for some door prizes. The food and service at the Country Buffett was great and we really enjoyed it.

During the meeting, new officers were installed for 2016. We also split up the money in the 50/50 pot that was building over the last year. The funds were divided between the Salvation Army, The Denver Rescue Mission, and Colorado Cares-Colorado Shares.

We also did our annual Salvation Army Food Bank drive. Members brought their non-perishable food donations to the meeting, which later was delivered to the Salvation Army in Centennial, CO. We want to thank all of our members for their generous donations.

In December we had our Christmas party at the Northglenn Christian Church in Northglenn, CO. Our hosts were Ray & Marlene McGrady, Bill & Denise Leck, and Dave & Donna Watkins. Our thanks to them for setting up the event. Special thanks to Gary & Mirita Moore for reserving the room at their Church for us to meet at. We had a catered meal, which was delicious! We also had a Christmas ornament exchange and Christmas cookie exchange. It was great to get together and spend time with our camping friends and count our blessings.

We hope everyone had a nice Christmas and we wish you all a Happy New Year!

Submitted by *Donna & Dave Watkins*



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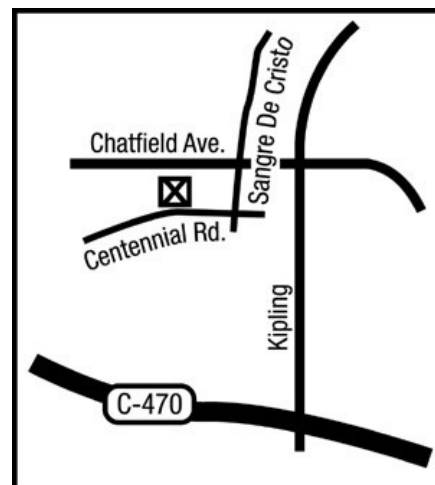
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1 Tbsp. sugar  
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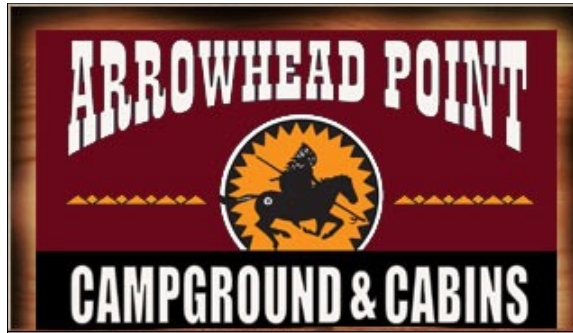
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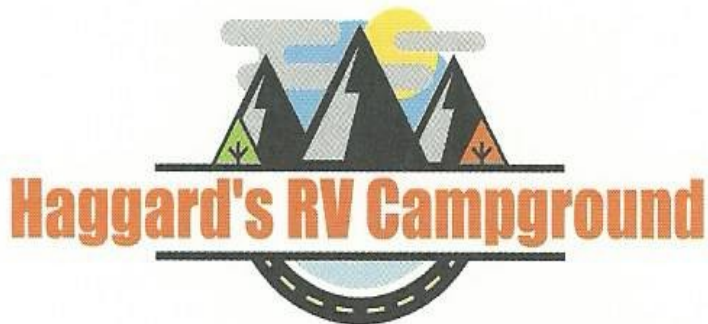
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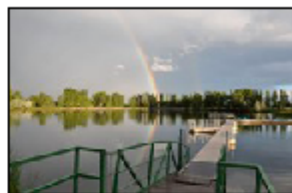
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- Awnings
- Air conditioners



Where should you go for the best Denver area motorhome rentals?  
El Monte RV Rentals Call: (303) 426-7998 **Toll Free:** (888) 337-2214

### Service

If you are the owner of a motor home or other recreational vehicle, you know that upkeep is as regular as it is with your family automobile. It can be an agonizing task to find a good repair shop for your car, and finding someone dependable to work on your RV can be just as frustrating. At All Stars RV, our aim is to be the shop you can rely on, will continue to return to and will recommend to your family and friends. We strive to provide dependable, honest service from the initial point of analyzing problems and providing estimates to performing your service and repairs at reasonable rates.

# COMPETITION

## Recreational

— We Service and Sell Fun —

### **FOR ALL YOUR RV NEEDS WE OFFER:**

Mobile RV Service and Repair  
RV Service and Repair At the Shop  
Parts

Indoor/Outdoor Storage  
Travel Trailer Rentals  
Budget Truck Rentals

*Technicians are certified and have over 60 years combined experience.*

*Mention You're a Member for a Discount!*

5800 N. Federal Blvd. • Denver, CO 80221 (I-76 & Federal)

303-456-2699 – [www.competitionrv.com](http://www.competitionrv.com)



  
**Mountain View RV Resort**  
Canon City, Colorado



**Address:** 45606 W. Highway 50, Canon City, CO 81212-8249

**Phone:** 719-275-0900 **Web Site:** [mountainviewrvresort.net](http://mountainviewrvresort.net)

6.5 miles west of Canon City; 3/4 mile east of Royal Gorge turnoff



#### **Great Sites and Cabins**

- Big Rig friendly - Escort service to site
- Large Deluxe sites - 40 ft x 65 ft with 300+ sq ft. concrete pad, fire pit and picnic table
- Standard sites - 30 ft x 60 ft
- Backins, Pullin and Pull thru sites
- 4 Bunkhouse cabins (2 deluxe and 2 standard)
- Propane on site - Good lighting
- Beautiful mountain views

#### **Stay Connected!**

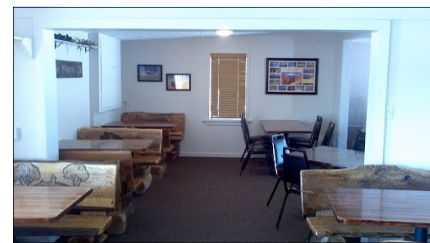
- Great WI FI
- Direct TV available
- Verizon Hot Spot

#### **Things to Do On-Site!**

- Basketball - Shuffleboard
- Horseshoes - Playground
- Pickle ball
- Walking and Biking trails

#### **Enjoy Our Community Areas!**

- Community building - with direct TV & kitchen
- Resort Store
- Community patio area
- Community fire pit table
- Outdoor kitchen / meeting area
- Dog Park
- Laundry
- Bath and shower facilities



**FCRV RETIREE RALLY REGISTRATION**  
**June 6 – 10**  
**KOA Lakeside, 1910 N. Taft Hill Road, Ft. Collins, CO 80524**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Handicap space required? \_\_\_\_\_

Type and length of rig \_\_\_\_\_ Number of slides \_\_\_\_\_

Towing an extra vehicle? \_\_\_\_\_

|                                                          |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Rally registration, per RV                               | \$10.00 |
| A one night camping deposit of \$40.00 +tax is required. | \$41.42 |
| Dinner reservations @ <u>\$15.00 per person</u>          | _____   |

Make check payable to: Colorado FCRV Retirees TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration deadline is May 15, 2016**

**DO NOT MAIL TO KOA**

—————▶ Mail to Carter Bloomfield - P.O. Box 1564, Sterling, CO 80751 ◀—————

*Group will be charged one night charge for every cancellation and/or no show  
after the final list of names is submitted.*

*There is a \$3/hour charge for early check in prior to 1:00 PM*

If you must cancel please call Carter Bloomfield at 970-580-0406 as soon as possible.  
We do our best to refund your Money in an emergency situation.



A picture of our FCRV booth at the recent Denver RV Show. Shaun Kendle and his Mom, Shirley along with Shawn's two children Ian and Dawnella are helping promote FCRV. Jeff Kendle and Shalah are also helping. The booth was managed for the four day event by many FCRV Chapters and members. We greatly appreciate everyone's help.

# FCRV RETIREE RALLY

**June 6 – 10, 2016**

***KOA Lakeside, 1910 N. Taft Hill Road, Ft. Collins, CO 80524***

KOA Lakeside offers many amenities including Wi-Fi available, cable TV, bumper boats, paddle boats, miniature golf, horseshoes, fishing, ladder golf, volleyball, exercise room, swimming pool, basketball, and softball field.

**John Bell, founder of the Buffalo Soldiers of the American West will present the history and a video of this group in action. This group represents members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry M Company, organized in 1867. Using mixed colored horses they were also known as the Calico Company. Wednesday at 2:00 PM**



**We are excited to welcome the Clark Street Music Club  
Featuring music from the 50's, 60's and 70's, plus some of their own songs. Thursday at 7:00PM**

**Ice cream Sundaes and Hospitality Monday @ 7:00 PM**  
(CAMP bike and walk, Tuesday, Wed. and Thursday @8:00AM))

**Tuesday, Bo-Lo Horseshoes, Horseshoes, and Cribbage**

**Roast Beef Dinner on Tuesday Evening @ 5:30 PM**

**Wednesday, Miniature Golf Tournament**

**Pot Luck Dinner Thursday @ 5.00 PM**

**Friday, Breakfast prepared for you, 7:45 – 9:00 AM**

***Please plan to exit the campground by 11:00 AM***

Camping fee \$40.00, plus 3.55% tax, equals \$41.42 per night  
Rally fee is \$10.00 per unit. - Roast beef dinner \$15.00 per person

**Advance registration deadline is May 15, 2016**

The Retiree Rally is open to all FCRV Retirees regardless of chapter affiliation.

Colorado FCRV State Retiree Directors - Carter and Ann Bloomfield



**HOW  
RETIRED  
PEOPLE  
HAVE  
FUN AT  
THE JUNE  
RETIREE  
RALLY**



352 Mountain Cloud Circle  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PARKER, CO  
PERMIT NO. 97

| ACTIVITY                      | SPRING FLING                 | STATE-WIDE                   |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Registration                  | Yes                          | Yes                          |
| Parking                       | Yes                          | Yes                          |
| Set-up / Stage Decorations    | No                           | Yes                          |
| Flag Ceremony                 | Yes                          | Yes                          |
| Door Prizes                   | No                           | Yes                          |
| Help w/Security               | Yes                          | Yes                          |
| Help w/First Aid & Safety     | Yes                          | Yes                          |
| Saturday morning breakfast    | No                           | Yes                          |
| Friday night dinner           | Yes                          | Yes                          |
| Saturday night catered dinner | Yes                          | No                           |
| Different games/activities    | Yes                          | Yes                          |
| Clean up                      | One person from each chapter | One person from each chapter |

Bring a sack lunch or visit several fast-food restaurants within a mile and half from the church. Coffee and lemonade will be furnished. Because of church security, the main

entrance that is adjacent to the parking lot to the south will be open until 9:15 am, after that time, the side entrance which is to the west, will be open until 9:30 am. After that you will have to call Irene's cell phone 303-912-2840 so she can come and let you in.