

The Voice of Colorado FCRV

FIRESIDE EMBERS



Nov/Dec 2016
Volume XLV Issue 6



Free to Colorado FCRV
Members - Founded 1967

Statewide 2016

As we approach the year end, let's reflect on one of the 2016 stand out events—Statewide. We hope these pictures, along with others throughout this edition of the Embers, bring back fond memories, or entice you to attend in 2017 if you missed out on the fun in Kiowa. The gifts we are given through our Colorado FCRV membership include joy, smiles, laughter, friendships, food, and camping. We wish you all of this in great abundance for 2017.



REMEMBERING HANK NATHAN



It's with great sadness that we learned of Hank Nathan passed away November 24th at 97 yrs, old. We owe him a great deal of gratitude for forming our family organization.

Henry 'Hank' Nathan, retired hotel manager Henry "Hank" Nathan, 97, of Roseland, N.J., passed away peacefully on Nov. 24, 2016. Born in St. Paul, Minn., Hank resided in Newark, N.J., and South Orange, N.J., before moving to Roseland.

Hank was a WW II soldier in Europe. He served with honor in the U.S. Army in the Combat Engineer Battalion as a specialist 1, spending 24 months in the European-African-Middle Eastern theatre. He was awarded two bronze stars for bravery and received the victory medal.

Hank retired in 1994 as the general and convention manager of the Fallsview Hotel in Ellenville, N.Y.

Hank was the founder of the National Campers and Hikers Association (known today as the Family Campers and RVR's Assoc.) It is the world's largest non-profit camping organization, incorporated in 1949. As founder of the NCHA, Hank had the pleasure of meeting with several U.S. presidents, including sharing the stage with former President Ronald Reagan, as he gave a speech to NCHA's thousands of members in the 1980s.

Hank was known for his positive outlook on life, warm sense of humor, sensitivity, and goodness. He will be missed by all who knew him. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Barbara, brother, Joseph, and sister, Anne. Hank is survived by his devoted daughter, Suzanne Sayers and her husband, William, and cherished and proud grandfather of Benjamin and Abigail. In lieu of flowers, donations in Hank's honor may be made to FCRV Scholarship Fund, 4804 Transit Rd., Bldg 2, Depew, N.Y. 14043.

Excerpts from the article published in Star-Ledger on Nov. 26, 2016

Our prayers are sent to his family.

Note: Memories of Hank will be shared in the January 2017 issue of Camping Today.



NCHA/FCRV FOUNDER
HANK NATHAN

In this Edition ...

2017 Calendar
Officers Workshop and Planning Meeting
Retiree Luncheon
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2017 DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Jan 13th	11:00 AM	Colorado Retiree Luncheon	Cinzetti's Italian Buffet I-25 & 104th Ave
Feb 11th	9:00 AM—5:00 PM	Colorado Officer's Workshop/Planning Mtg	Arvada Presbyterian Church 5592 Independence St., Arvada, CO
Mar 21st—27th	N/A	National Retiree Rally	Canton, TX
Apr 28th—30th	N/A	Field Staff Workshop & Campout	Fort Collins KOA Lakeside in Fort Collins, CO
May 11th—14th	N/A	Spring Fling	Morgan County Fairgrounds in Brush, CO
June 5th—9th	N/A	Colorado Retiree Rally	Fort Collins KOA Lakeside in Fort Collins, CO
July 9th—15th	N/A	National Campvention 2017	Lima, OH
Sept 1st—4th	N/A	Colorado Statewide	Elbert County Fairgrounds in Kiowa, CO
Sept 25th—29th	N/A	Southern Colorado Retiree Rally	Pueblo South Colorado City KOA I-25 @ Exit 74—South of Pueblo
Sept 29th—Oct 1st	N/A	Field Staff Workshop & Campout	Pueblo South Colorado City KOA I-25 @ Exit 74—South of Pueblo

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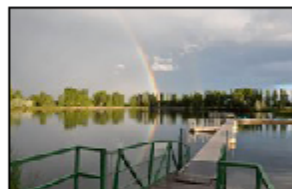
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Pay activities: Arcade, Chuckwagon and Laundry.

- 24 hour Laundry room
- Basketball
- Catch & release fishing
- Dog park
- Fishing dock
- Fitness trail
- Lakeview sites available
- Library/Fitness room
- Mini-golf
- Spa sites available
- Playground & Sports field
- Volleyball & Jumping pillow
- Bolo & Regular Horseshoes
- Bumper & Paddle Boats
- Chuckwagon—Ends 9/15/2015
- Wading pool—Ends 9/7/2015
- Arcade—Ends 9/15/2015
- Recreation Center—Ends 9/15/2015
- 2 conference rooms w/ Kitchenette
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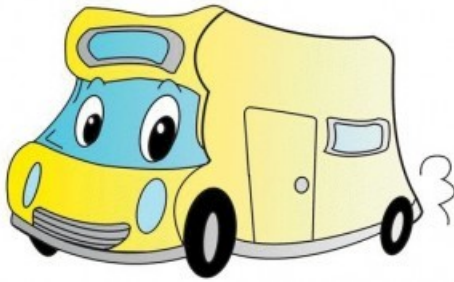
From Interstate 25

Take exit 269 B and head west on Colorado Highway 14 into Fort Collins. Follow the signs to U.S. Highway 287 north (about ten minutes). Take 287 north until you get to the northern edge of Fort Collins (about ten more minutes). Shortly thereafter, 287 will split off to the right to go to Laramie. Do not follow 287 at this point. Rather, continue straight into the town of Laporte. The second stoplight after this split will be Taft Hill Road (CR 19). Turn left onto Taft Hill Road (CR 19). Now get into the very first left-hand turning lane that you come to, which is about 1/2 mile down Taft Hill Road (CR 19). Turn left onto Lakeside Resort Lane and follow the concrete driveway straight through the gate.

The Traded Motorhome

By Angel Ireson

Publicity and Information Director



Hi, I am a Class C motorhome and I just found out I will be traded for a Class A. At first I was very concerned and sad and I wondered if I had done something wrong. Then I got to thinking about my life in general. I came off the factory line where I was built, all shiny and new and ready for adventure. The first place I was sent to also bought some of the other Class Cs from my factory so I did not feel alone. That was nice of them. We all went to the same place and heard we were going to be rental units, whatever that was. Well, we found out it meant that you got to meet lots of different people and they took you to all sorts of places. Some people were very nice and took good care of me and some were not so careful and jumped on my beds and stood on my furniture. After what seemed like a long time (I found out it was 2 years) the place I lived said it was time for me to move on and find a new home. I was very nervous as I did not know what to expect. Lots of people came to look at us and one by one the other units as they call us, left with their new people. Well, I was beginning to wonder if something was wrong with me until, at last, two people who became my people said it was time for me to go home with them. We took trips to all sorts of places and then they decided to "fix me up". I was not sure what that meant but I was surprised when I found out. I got a new couch and new cushions in my dinette and soon after that I got new, what they call window treatments. I also got a new wood floor in place of the carpet. WOW, I looked great! I also got new stuff underneath so I don't sway or

(Continued on page 22)



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CHAPTER OFFICERS WORKSHOP and PLANNING MEETING

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

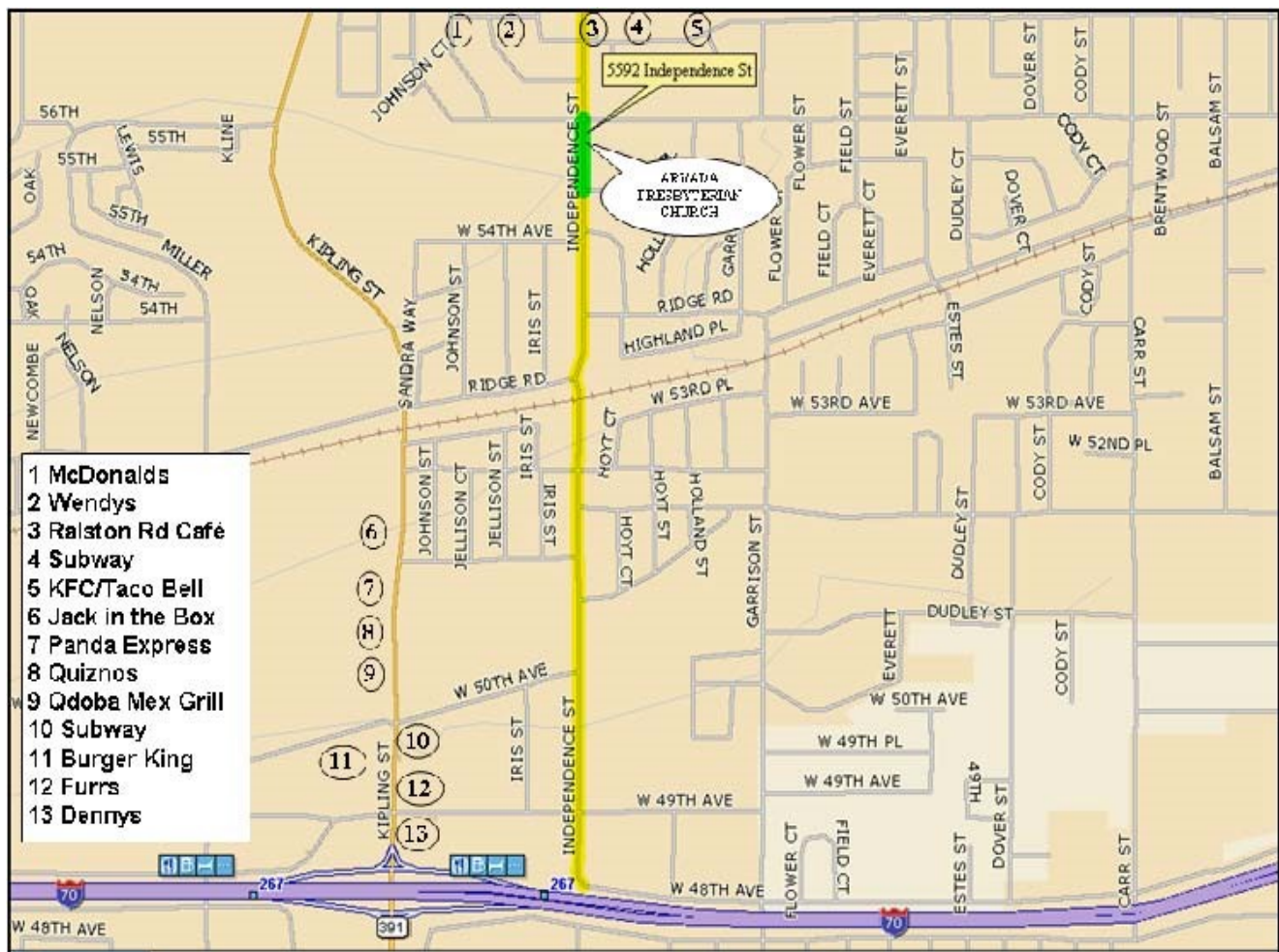
Arvada Presbyterian Church

5592 Independence St. Arvada, CO

February 11, 2017 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Whether you are holding a chapter office for the first time or have held chapter offices of some kind over many years you will always learn something new in our breakout sessions. The first half of the workshop will be geared to the chapter officers and even non-officer members, while the second half will be planning the 2017 state campouts. **We encourage every chapter in Colorado to have someone attend.** Please come with ideas for a Statewide theme and encourage your chapter to volunteer and sign up for some of the activities. We want to hear your ideas and need your help to put on our two State Campouts. 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.



Chapter News

Columbines

Columbines have been busy in the last few months.

November brought the Columbines to the Bistro at Aspen Grove, Santa Fe Drive one block off Mineral. We had 100% participation with ALL Columbines! We were all busy getting ready for our “Thanksgiving” to the communities around us and to our American Soldier friends at Walter Reed. A HHR was filled to the brim for toys for the Jeffco Action Center. The collection for homeless people gathered 4-coats, 4-scarfs, 7-hats, 20-pairs of Gloves... And drum roll PLEASE..... 128 pairs of socks!!!! We then filled out 40 Christmas greetings to send to Walter Reed Army Medical Center. We hope the cards will be a ray of sunshine in the lives of these recovering soldiers.



October outing was at Cherry Creek state park. The outing was at a “private car” collection, which put everyone in awe! After that awesome car collection we all headed over to Piccolos at Hampden and Monaco for lunch. We also held our Board Elections and set up 2017 camping calendar. Dessert was served after the meeting by the wagon masters Earl & Carol Peterson. We had a great time sitting around the fire and enjoying each other’s company.



September outing was at Chatfield and there was absolutely wonderful weather. The wagon masters were the Vigils and we had a wonderful campout! We had some unexpected visitors, as they were just as curious over us as we were of them. We played Mexican train during the day and got to watch the moon rise in the evening enjoying the fire and s’mores. We even had a few of us do a workout video outside of Peterson’s motorhome!

Submitted by the Columbines



Meet Our Membership Director

When you see us, Bruce and Kathy, you will usually also see Stephanie. Steph has a metabolic disorder which means her cells don't work as well as they should, making her life full of challenges. We considered travel and hotels, but she doesn't deal well with change. In 2012, we bought a used travel trailer, a "home away from home." She went aboard and said, "I'll take that big bed right there."

We were paralyzed by indecision – where and when to camp. We didn't camp until July 2013. We took a 10-day trip to the Black Hills and found our happy place – and had no idea where to go next. In the Spring of 2014 we went to an RV show, found FCRV, joined the Oops Chapter and never looked back. It took us two years to figure out what we liked and what we didn't, and in July 2015 we bought a newer trailer and Steph now has her own space (and Mom and Dad finally get to sleep in the big bed!) Kathy works full time from her home office. Bruce is employed as a engineer in telecommunications.

As Membership Directors, our goal is twofold: to work together with Chapters to increase membership to a level that meets your needs, and to assist with supporting efforts to keep our membership with us and rejuvenate the experience our members had when they first joined FCRV. Whatever we can do to help you or your Chapter – we're in.

We hope to find mentors for every potential member, so that they are well connected with your Chapter and enjoy the experience from the first campout. If you are interested in being a mentor, or talking about it, please reach out to me. If you have ideas or concerns about your Chapter growth or attrition, we'd love to hear from you – please call 303-364-5395 or email kathythomasfcrv@gmail.com.

Kathy and Bruce Thomas



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Chapter News

Trailblazers

The Trailblazers September campout was in Taos, New Mexico, at the Taos Valley RV Park and Campground. A "BIG" thank you to our hosts, Larry and Monte Hudson and Vicki Patterson. We had fifteen rigs attending the campout. We welcomed Bill and Barb Jones and Maxine Martinez as guests.

We are excited to welcome Jim and Evy Jones into the Trailblazers family as new members.

After the Taos campout, several members also attended the Southern Colorado Retiree Rally at Pueblo South/Colorado City KOA.



Taos Pueblo



Breakfast at the Bent Street Cafe in Taos, New Mexico: Daphne and Dave Turner -(L) with hosts Vicki Patterson (center) Monte and Larry Hudson (R)



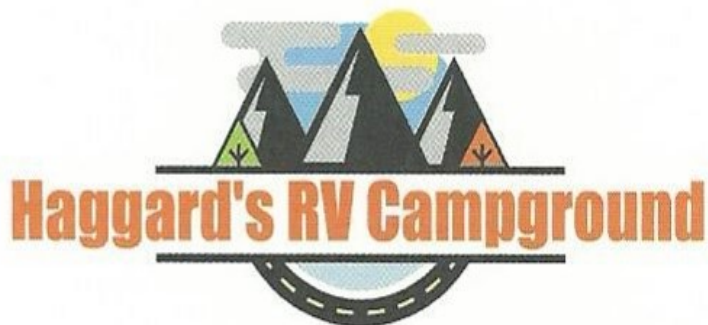
All aboard! Trailblazers setting off on Historic Taos Trolley Tour!

The final campout for the 2016 season is in LaVeta, CO, at the Circle the Wagons RV Park.



San Francisco De Asis Church

Submitted by Cathy Vegvary



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Trailblazers hiking the Slide Trail (3 miles round trip) that offers beautiful views of the Rio Pueblo de Taos Canyon.



Chapter News

Rocky Explorers

While the Rocky Explorers are sorry to see the end of camping season, we are doing lots of fun activities and planning for next year.



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CEMETERY

In October, the Rocky Explorers had a Halloween-themed outing to the Riverside Cemetery. Hosted by the Randel and Sanders families, we toured the historic Riverside Cemetery. This project supports the awareness and preservation of Denver's Oldest Cemetery. They brought a host of historical city figures back to life on Halloween. Period-clad reenactors revived such characters as Sand Creek Massacre good guy Silas Soule, turn-of-the-century temperance worker and police matron Sadie Likens, African-American social climbers Barney and Julia Ford, brewer Philip Zang and many others as tour participants trekked through the burial ground (<http://friendsofriversidecemetery.org/2010/04/30/halloween-tour-wins-best-of-denver/>)

Also in October, the Rocky Explorers held a planning meeting for 2017. Hosted by Rich and Cheryl Price, we had pizza and TOO much dessert! We made plans for an exciting 2017 camping and outing year. We are looking forward to another outing in November and a Holiday Party in December!

Submitted by Cindy Kotary

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Delivery of the Fireside Embers Has Changed -- Spring 2016

The primary method of delivering your Embers newsletter has changed 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

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Chapter News

Silver Foxes

Summer is done and winter is upon us. It is that time of the year again when people switch from their refreshing, cool drinks to warm cups of beverages in front of the fireplace. In other words - summer is officially over! Many of us would prefer a yearlong summer and simply skip the bone chilling winter months and go RVing. That is not to be. For most of us Silver Foxes, we have already winterized our motor homes and started preparing for holiday season.

The Silver Foxes are not known for hibernating during the cold winter months. We may keep to ourselves during fall and early winter, but can be found at our monthly luncheons searching for food and catching up. November we gathered at the IHOP in Fountain, Colorado feasting while we elected and installed our new officers for 2016-2017.

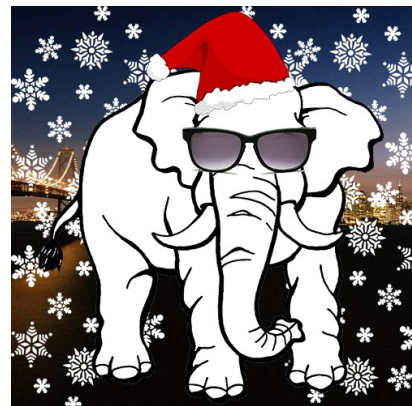


President - Billy and Liesa Moore;
Vice President – Gary and Pat Beres;
Secretary – Freda Spurlock and Jack Czerwinski;
Treasurer – Oznur Quinones
Committee Appointment: D.A.T. – Ted Lunacek;
Self Propelled – Willi Walker; Camping Scotty and Peggy Scott;
Conservation and Wildlife – Ken and Helen Stanko

You will find the Silver Foxes at Zios in Colorado Springs for December. On the menu is the Christmas card exchange followed by the entertaining, playful rivalries between players trying to get the sought after items of the White Elephant gift exchange. May our white elephant gift swap turn into lighthearted amusement!!!!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.
 Don't forget the best present you can get - - - - -
ARE FRIENDS WRAPPED UP IN EACH OTHER!!!!

Submitted by Marion Waterhouse





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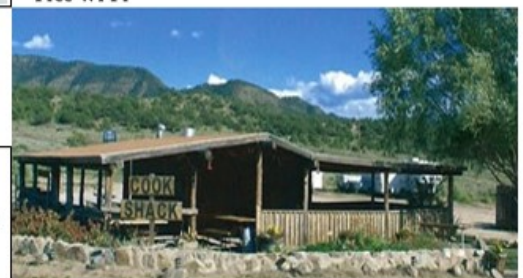
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Chapter News

Timberliners

Our final campout was at St. Vrain State Park. Weather was great but the challenge was just getting into the Park. There was heavy road construction on the highway leading to the Park and some of us missed the turnoff, including this writer. Friday night dinner was at the Smokehouse Bar B-Q Restaurant in Frederick, a few short miles from The Park.



Weather was fantastic and on Friday we had dinner at their outdoor court yard.

On Saturday we had our business meeting; outdoors, of course, weather was perfect (did I mention this already?). We had 12 members in attendance. We had nominations for officers and they will be installed in January.



There are numerous hiking trails in the Park and many of us took advantage of this. There were also ponds for fishing, catch and release.

Saturday evening we had our pot luck at Cunningham's Club House, also a short distance from the Park.

On Sunday we had a Continental Breakfast, outdoors at Cunningham's campsite. It was an enjoyable weekend.

Submitted by Jerry and JoAnne Lien



Trailblazers

Another season of camping has come to an end. Considering the beautiful weather we had in November, we could have had one more campout!

We had a great turnout at our first winter meeting at the Golden Corral. We welcomed guests Jerry and Kathy Ludke and Katerina, granddaughter of Rod and Cordelia Rau.

The installation of officers was the first order of business to start the meeting. New officers are Daphne Turner, President; Ken Harper, Vice President; Larry Hudson, Board Member; Bob Vegvary, Board Member; and Vicki Patterson, Board Member as Past President. Returning officers are Sue Frindt, Secretary and Dawn Skillman, Treasurer. A "BIG Thank You" to all our officers for making the commitment to lead the Trailblazers into another year.



Our campouts for 2017 have been finalized and we have great destinations. Next year you'll find the Trailblazers in Colorado City, Cherry Creek State Park, Chalk Creek, Pagosa Springs, Steamboat Springs, Ridgway State Park, and Buena Vista.

We wish everyone A Very Merry Christmas and the Best of New Years! Travel safely!

Submitted by Cathy Vegvary

Chapter News

Star Chasers

Hello and greetings from all of the members of the Star Chasers. It has been a nice Summer and Fall full of fun and camping. Several of us went to the Statewide Campout in Kiowa and had a great time. One of the highlights personally for us was that Dick and Alice received a 25 year recognition certificate for 25 years with FCRV and with the Star Chaser Chapter. Also Lee made a beautiful afghan and Dick made a beautiful bird house for our raffle prizes. It was great fun that weekend with all of the activities.



Our last campout was in October at Mountain Dale RV Park in Colorado Springs. We enjoyed nice weather, which made it good for getting out for some sightseeing. We all went into Canyon City to the Royal Gorge Regional Museum. Admission was free and we had scheduled a guided tour of the museum. We learned about the local history there and the tour guide couldn't have been nicer and she shared many interesting facts of the region.



We just had our November meeting at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Centennial. The food was great and we had a large gathering of people from the Chapter in attendance. We elected officers and swore them in. We voted in a new member into the chapter during this meeting.



We also gained a new member at the October meeting. We are very excited about getting to know these people better and sharing camping experiences with them.



Last, we divided up our 50/50 pot money. Part of it went to the Volunteers of America for Meals on Wheels and the other part went to the Salvation Army Food Bank in Centennial. Everyone also brought canned food and other non-perishable food to donate to the Salvation Army as well. It was good to be able to help them once again this year.

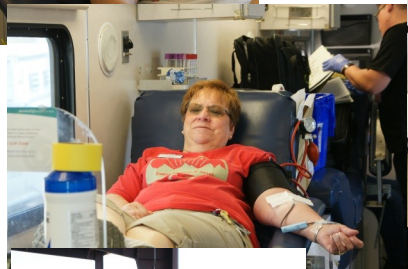


Now we are looking forward to our Christmas Party and spending time with all of our camping friends. On behalf of myself and all of the Star Chasers, we want to wish you a blessed Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

Submitted by Donna Watkins



Statewide 2016



Chapter News

Trailblazers

The Trailblazers celebrated Oktoberfest at Circle the Wagons RV Park in LaVeta. We'd like to shout out a "HUGE" thank you to Dave and Daphne Turner, Larry and Sue Menke, and Paul and Beverly Hassler for making this such a great campout.

Several Trailblazers arrived early to start the campout. Monday turned out to be a day of winds like we'd never seen before. The wind started at 3:00 AM Monday morning and lasted well into the night. Five RVs battled the wind on Monday, arriving safely from Colorado Springs. Luckily, no rigs were damaged by the falling limbs and branches.

Along with the usual "heavy hors d' oeuvres" on Monday evening, we enjoyed large, soft baked pretzels and mustard. We also did a German beer tasting. Several members contributed different varieties of German beer for sampling.



Tuesday morning the Trailblazers got busy! The campground was littered with limbs, branches, and leaves. We pitched in to help Denny and Jay Patterson, owners of Circle

the Wagons, clean up what the wind left behind. They greatly appreciated our help, which we were glad to give!

Everyone was ready to enjoy our Oktoberfest luncheon, especially after being outside all morning. We enjoyed brats, German potato salad, red cabbage, beets, sauerkraut, and many other German foods.

In appreciation for our help in cleaning up the campground, the owners of Circle the Wagons treated us to ice cream at Charlie's Market in LaVeta. Nobody turns down ice cream at Charlie's Market and we all enjoyed the treat!

Many of us spent the evening playing the card game "Thirty-one". A good time was had by all who played.



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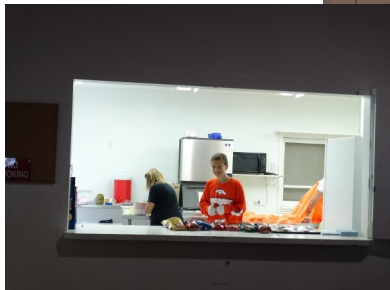
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800-888-2232



(Continued on page 23)

Statewide 2016



Chapter News

Woodland Wookies

On the Road Again (Read the words & sing the song)

Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson

On the road again,
Just can't wait to get on the road again
The life I love is makin' music with my friends
And I can't wait to get on the road again ...

On the road again
Like a band of gypsies we go down the highway
We're the best of friends
Insisting that the world be runnin' our way!

Last campout of the 2016 season: Dry camping off a bluff in Tarryall and breakfast meeting with a cowboy dinner and dance at M Lazy C Ranch to top it off ... going western all-the-way! The Woodland Wookies had the best "Rootin'-tootin' time" kicking up our heels at the ranch for our end of the year campout for October. We practically had the forest to ourselves which was very nice!

For a change of pace our, Saturday dinner was made extra special because we didn't have to do the cookin'! The dinner and entertainment and dancing were enjoyable after our pulled pork meal!



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(Continued on page 19)

Woodland Wookies Cont.

(Continued from page 18)

Once our cowboy boots started pinching and the kicking up our heels were worn off and the sun set down, we headed back to our campsite just a 20 minute ride away. We started up our campfire at our campsite to sit around ... There's nothing like the flickering warmth of a crackling campfire as we all know! Our dogs were thrilled to be let out of the RVs to be able to join us outdoors under the stars. The weekend flew by way too fast as did our camping season. That's what happens were there's TONS of FUN!

Yee haw!

"Happy trails to you
Until we meet again"

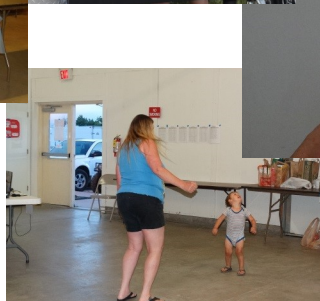


As always—Thank you FCRV

Submitted by Mary Ann Glover



Statewide 2016



The "Embers" is published six times a year. Please send any information that you would like to have included in the "Embers" to:

cofcvembers@gmail.com
or mail to:

Colorado FCRV Embers
1792 E Phillips Ave
Centennial, CO 80122

Editor:
Aprinda Cederplin
cofcvembers@gmail.com

**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)

The easiest way to get here is:

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2. Go North on Kipling to the third light, which is Chatfield Avenue.
3. Go West (Turn Left) on Chatfield and go one block to first light, which is Sangre De Cristo.
4. Go South (Turn Left) and go one block to Centennial Road.
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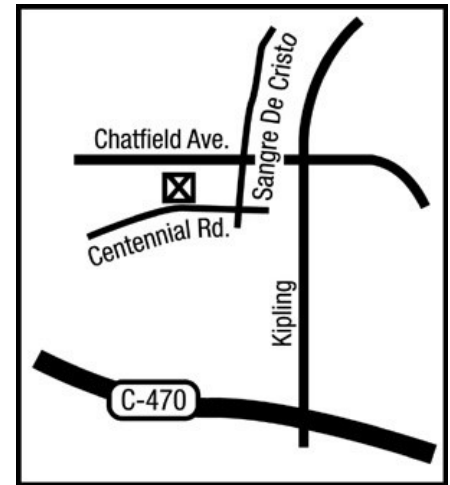
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This motorhome was damaged in a hail
storm and then the customer decided he
wanted to change the paint scheme.



BEFORE

We repaired the hail damage and repainted
the complete coach to match the
customers new design requests



AFTER

The Traded Motorhome cont.

(Continued from page 4)

bounce on rough roads. It felt good too. We took a few more trips and so I was very surprised to hear I was being traded. I felt very sad as I felt I had done a good job and I really liked my people but I found out later that the reason was one of my people had bad knees and driving me caused them to hurt. I am not sure why a Class A would be better but I sure didn't want to be the cause of any pain.

We drove for most of the day to get to where the Class A was living and I got to meet him. He was nice and I told him to take good care of his new owners (my people). I was feeling sad and I guess my people Mom was too because she came over and patted my front fender and said she would miss me and to be good for my new people. Then I got a little scared because I did not know who they would be and whether they would take as good care of me as my old people. Mom patted me again and said goodbye.

Right now I am sitting along with a bunch of other RVs waiting to see who our new people will be and where we will go next. Instead of being scared I have decided to take the positive approach and say "an RV's life is full of fun and adventure". There, I feel better already.

As an ending thought, be kind and gentle with your current or new RV and we will take care of you the best we can.

Bye!



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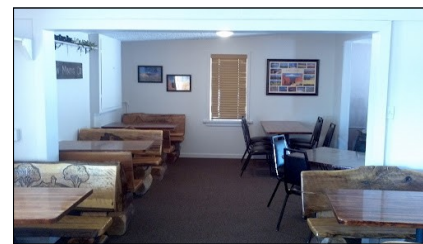
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- Resort Store
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- Community fire pit table
- Outdoor kitchen / meeting area
- Dog Park
- Laundry
- Bath and shower facilities



Trailblazers Cont.

(Continued from page 16)

A pancake breakfast with bacon/sausage was provided by Circle the Wagons the next morning. The remainder of the day was on our own. Several Trailblazers took picnic lunches and headed up Cuchara Pass to check out the changing leaves, while others walked into LaVeta.



We all gathered that evening for our last meal of "clean out the refrigerator" -until next year! After dinner we all got together for a rousing game of Polish Poker!

All good things must come to an end, but we have our campouts planned for 2017 and everyone is looking forward to yet another season of Trailblazers adventures!



Larry and Sue Menke receiving their 10 Year FCRV Anniversary

Submitted by Cathy Vegvary



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Now available a Deluxe Cabin with full bathroom, microwave, refrigerator, cable TV deck with gas grill and patio with fireplace overlooking the mountains (sleeps 6). Also available: One-Room Camping Cabin w/Cable TV, WiFi & AC/ Heater, Grass yard, patio with gas grill. Close to restrooms & RV sites. (sleeps up to 4 people)
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Rated the #1 KOA in Colorado, #5 in the US and Canada - Rated 5Ws by Woodalls

Rat-

Statewide 2016



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This is the Colorado FCRV Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1680243058923788/>

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Editors' Note

As we start to ramp up for Christmas now wouldn't seem like the time to reflect. Christmas gifts to wrap, kid programs, grandkid programs, tree to decorate, Santa to write and explain what happened, house and yard to decorate – there is so much going on! But stopping and reflecting is exactly what we are doing.

This year has been one that ran the full spectrum. We have lost some wonderful members, seen a changing of the guard with new Colorado State Directors, new chapters, new members, new ideas and lots of camping.

And then there is Aprinda—two people assuming one role. We have had a wonderful time (stop laughing Ron...and Wayne...and Robert) learning how to put together an Embers that truly reflects Colorado FCRV. We have strived to do our best and fulfill everyone's requests. Sometimes we could make it happen and sometimes we couldn't. Sometimes we were able to accomplish what we wanted and sometimes we didn't. There were times when what we planned didn't work out and what we didn't plan worked out better than if we planned it. But through it all, we never lost sight of what is truly important – the heart of FCRV and that would be EACH OF YOU. Through your pictures and stories we were able to glimpse into each of your chapters. We could see the smiles, laughter and fun that you all had and hopefully everyone else did, too. So from the bottom of our hearts – thank you!

We could, if we wanted to ... and we do, sum up the year in book titles – children's book titles that is. "Alexander and the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day", "Where the Wild Things Are", "Love you forever", "Oh The Places We'll Go", "A Wish for Wings That Work", and of course, "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish." No matter how you sum up this year though – We wish you a very Merry Christmas and an awesomely wonderfully cool New Year!

As Tiny Tim eloquently said, "God Bless us.... Everyone!"

Aprinda

When you are filling out your Christmas Cards this Year take a Card and Send to this Address:

**A Recovering American Soldier
C.O. Walter Reed
Army Medical Center
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Pass this on and Think of how many Cards these Wonderful, Special People who have Sacrificed so much would get. Please Share on your Wall, it's the Least we can do!

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Chapter News

Aspen Adventurers

Aspen Adventurers have had a busy first year. Our August campout was held at Cheyenne Mountain State Park with 5 families in attendance. We had a great weekend taking it easy. Some members went on bike rides while others took advantage of the hiking trails and others hung out and relaxed the whole weekend. We had foil packs on Saturday and had so much to choose from that the foil packs were quite large by the time they were put on the coals. After clean-up, it was time for ice cream sundaes which was the perfect ending to a good meal. Camping is not complete until you have that evening fire and popcorn and s'mores around the fire. Sunday came way too early and everyone packed up to head home after another great weekend camping.



In September we not only went to Statewide, we also headed to Golden Gate State Park. Statewide was memorable for everyone. The kids were busy all day, thanks to the great Youth, Pre-Teen, and Teen Directors. They also dressed in their best 50's outfits and danced the night away at the Sock Hop. And you can't forget about Shaundrea making an appearance at the Sock Hop. That was a night to remember.



At Golden Gate State Park, we had 6 families camping and 3 families came up for the day to visit. You couldn't ask for a better weekend, the weather was great. Some arrived early on Friday and took advantage of the nice weather and explored the area. Saturday was filled with a potluck breakfast, activities for the kids, auction to raise money for the chapter, hikes to the lookout point, and a Mexican themed potluck for dinner. We were glad that Shaun and Dezirae came up for the day so Shaun could MC the auction and bid against his dad on a couple of items - thus raising more money for the chapter. We also were joined by Jeff, Stacy and their daughters Lauren, and Nicole our newest prospective members. We of course had our campfire filled with lots of laughter and stories. Once again the weekend ended too soon and everyone had to pack-up and go home.



Our October campout was filled with potlucks, Halloween fun, trick-or-treating, bobbing for apples, and a scavenger hunt that was not only fun for the kids, but the adults also. It was great to see all the kids participate in all of the activities no matter what their age. The worst part of the campout was knowing that this



would be the last campout of the season and it would be a long 5 months before we head out again camping.

In November we took a tour of Hammonds Candy Factory. We watched as candy was pulled, twisted, and shaped by hand just like it was done in the 1920's. Everyone was given a giant candy cane as they exited the tour. Although the tour itself is free, you can hardly get away without spending money once you get into the store and see all the candy Hammonds has to offer. After the tour we headed to Jay's Diner for lunch and, as it turned out, some had breakfast. Some just couldn't pass up those biscuits and gravy. All in all it was a good day.



SPARKS PAGE

WORD SCRAMBLE

REDASH
CANDRE
NEDNOR
TENZLIB
NEVIX
HOLDURP
TOMECH
CERRANP
DIPUC

Can you guess what I am thinkig about?

Knock-knock.
Who's there?
Irish.
Irish who?
Irish I had a million dollars

Knock-knock!
Who's there?
Cows.
Cows who?
Cows go "Moo", not "Who"!

Knock-knock!
Who's there?
Wooden shoe.
Wooden shoe who?
Wooden shoe like to know!

WORD SEARCH

S	E	O	F	R	O	S	T	Y	M	R
N	I	A	N	S	L	A	G	H	R	E
O	J	L	M	I	T	N	C	J	S	I
W	N	V	V	M	Z	T	M	I	C	N
M	O	C	M	E	I	A	R	N	L	D
A	T	S	K	K	R	S	T	G	A	E
N	S	E	V	L	E	B	T	L	U	E
X	R	P	B	D	H	U	E	E	S	R
E	G	R	I	N	C	H	S	L	M	V
V	A	O	S	L	E	I	G	H	L	A
M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	C	S

QUESTION: WHAT DO SNOWMEN EAT FOR LUNCH?
ANSWER: ICEBERGERS

QUESTION: WHAT KIND OF BALL DOESN'T BOUNCE?
ANSWER: SNOWBALL

QUESTION: WHAT DO ELVES LEARN IN GRADE 1?
ANSWER: THE ELF-ABET

WORD LIST

Elves
Frosty
Grinch
Jingle
Mistletoe
Mrs Claus
Reindeer
Santa
Silver Bells
Sleigh
Snowman

Christmas story:

One year my Grandpa gave me a sled for Christmas. It was the coolest sled ever.
But how he wrapped it was funny - he didn't!! He had a string with a note and I had to follow the string, wrappnig it back into a ball to find my gift. I went all through the house, out to the backyard, around trees and back in the house. I finally found it in their closet!

Do you have a funny Christmas story? Send it in!!!

HAVE A GREAT CAMPING STORY TO SHARE?

HOW ABOUT A FUNNY CAMPING PICTURE?

SEND YOUR STORIES AND PICTURES
TO:COFCRVEMBERS@GMAIL.COM

MAKE SURE TO PUT "SPARKS" IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF THE EMAIL!
WE WILL POST YOUR PICTURES AND STORIES HERE!

ALL JOKES AND RIDDLES COURTESY OF WWW.BESTFAMILYADVICE.COM - CHECK THEM OUT!

IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE....

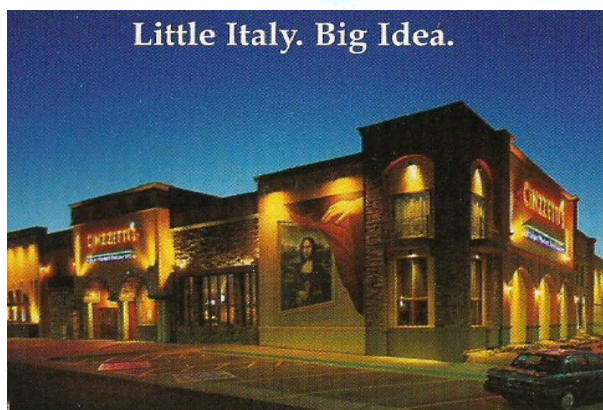
What snack do you put out for Santa?
Do you leave a snack for his reindeer too?
How late do you stay up?

COLORADO CHAPTERS OF FCRV
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Friday, January 13th, 2017