

VOICE of the Camping Family – Family Campers and RVers

CAMPING TODAY®

January 2017



The Miami and Erie Canal provides interesting sites within easy driving distance from the Allen County, Ohio Campvention site.....page 10



Happy New
Year!

May 2017 bring you
new friendships and
many great camping
memories!

Members share memories of founder Hank Nathan....page 4

The REC Act will provide the outdoor recreation and RV community
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From the President - Shari Weber



HAPPY NEW YEAR! This is the time we all make personal resolutions we hope will improve our lives. I look forward to a fantastic year for Family Campers & RVers.

New Appointment

Since the death of Hugh Hicks in October the position of Vice President Operations has been vacant.

The trustees and I have been carrying out the responsibilities of the position. We are happy to notify you that following the provisions of the constitution, the Trustees have approved the appointment of Sue Fromholzer from New York to the unfinished term. Sue began her responsibilities the beginning of January. Sue recently resigned as our national office manager so she is well qualified to step into this position. She is well known throughout the organization and I hope will receive full support as she takes on this new role.

Changes

Ken & Velma Willis have resigned as Utah State Director. Their successors are Bill and Daryl Bacon. Loana Schraeder has resigned as Region 1 Regional Director. Her successor has yet to be identified. We thank Ken and Velma and Loana for their dedication and great service to our organization.

Election 2017

Three Trustee positions Vice President Operations, Vice President Planning & Development and Comptroller are up for election in 2017. The nominating committee has completed their work. They have candidates for each of the positions up for election. Sue Fromholzer has agreed to be nominated to the Vice President Operations position, Scott Serbousek has agreed to again be nominated to the Vice President Planning & Development position and Jan Cushing has agreed to be nominated to the Comptroller position. Since there is only one candidate for each position there is no need to have ballots sent to the membership. These people will be elected by having the Recording Officer cast a unanimous ballot and the membership meeting in July. They will be installed at that time as well. Thanks go out to the nominating

committee, Jack Smye of ONT, Chairman, Richard Roberts of NV, Tommy Garner of GA, Linda English of MI and Ed Shaneyfelt of IN.

Shawnee Campvention

The Shawnee campvention is history. Debbie Ludwig and her team from Region 2 and others did a terrific job. The evaluations from all of you have come in. Thank you for your input to help us improve your experience at campvention. We will strive to implement your suggestions and have shared the survey with the next two campvention planning teams.

Upcoming Events

The retiree rally is our next national rally. Jim & Barb Turner are chairing this event. Their team is working hard to plan a great experience. Please look elsewhere in this magazine for more information and the registration. Hope to see you there.

Lima OH is the location for Campvention 2017. Dave & Linda Hennie and their team invite you "All Aboard for Lima". Lots of great events are planned. Look for the registration and more information in this issue.

Shari

Come Camp With Us!

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration continually updates recall information on cars, trucks, and RVs.

You can check your vehicle by VIN number. See www.nhtsa.com and search RVs.



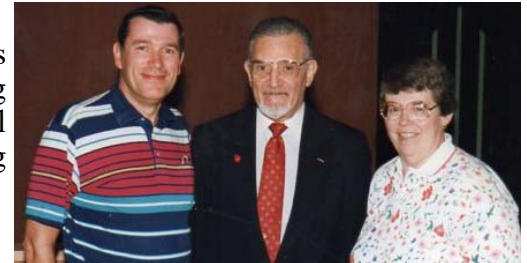


Memories of Hank Nathan

Hank Nathan who founded National Campers & Hikers Association in 1949 and guided it into a successful international camping and RV organization passed away November 24th at the age of 97. Here are some memories of Hank as submitted by FCRV members.

We thank Hank Nathan for founding National Campers & Hikers Association (dba Family Campers & RVers) and creating our camping family. We extend our sympathy to Suzanne & to her family. We'll keep them in our prayers. Many of us who have been around a long time have many memories of Hank.

Jim & Barb Turner, Ohio/Florida



Hank with Jim & Barb turner

I've been a member of the great organization since 1968. My condolences to the family of Hank Nathan.

Janet Scheetz, Iowa



Hank Nathan in 1949 with NCHA's first logo.

Our hearts are saddened by the recent death of Hank Nathan, our friend, -- Founder of National Campers and Hikers Association (dba Family Campers and RVers).

We must celebrate his life devoted to protection of this planet and God's Love. We met Hank back in 1962 when we attended our first NCHA event. Members for some 7 years, we had benefited from publication re: places of interest. which we visited as individual family. We met Hank, over and over at this 1962 NCHA convention at Indian Falls Lake, NY. He was not that hard to reach "leader" but one of the family campers. A friendship was formed which grew over decades.

Motto was "Love thy God, Love thy Neighbour, and Hank practiced what he preached. We camped together many times and were delighted when he married his beloved Barbara. Their joy when blessed with arrival of daughter Suzanne was shared by their camping family of some 300,000 persons. Suzanne accompanied Hank as a toddler as he welcomed all to Campvention. While her parents joined President Reagan and other officials on stage, Suzanne sat with George and I looking on. Barbara's early death was a sad time. She was missed by many. Hank changed lives, as he taught thousands the values of protecting and conserving this planet for future generations.



Hank and Barbara Nathan

R.I.P. Hank, and your love lives on in your camping family.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to daughter Suzanne and her husband Bill Sayers, and grandchildren..

Noreen Smith, Ontario, Canada

Hank in a campvention Parade



(Con't pg. 5)

(Con't from pg 4)

A few comments about Hank. When we lived in upstate New York, we first met Hank at a New York State Campout. He invited us to sit down with him and talk about old times, and he had many, many stories. After becoming Historian, we made it a point to see him at Campventions that he attended, and sit down with him, and hear of the old stories and memories. Little did we know that those would be some of the most enjoyable conversations and lasting memories we have of Hank. His name was written differently in several of our magazines. The word "Ellsworth" was used and through his daughter, Susan, we found out that his real name was just Henry "Hank" Nathan.

To some of us, he was bigger than life because we looked up to him as a smart and intelligent man, with such a great personality, who had so much talent in so many areas, with a big heart to spread his love to his camping family and all people he ever met.



Hank with Miss FCRV 1993,
Ethel Darling

Shirley and Don MacKenzie, Virginia

Phill and I attended Hank Nathan's funeral. It was a bright, sunny, comfortable day, temperature in the 50s, no wind during the service. There were about 75 people in attendance, with only the two of us from FCRV. I wore my NCHA zippered sweater and Phill wore his FCRV retiree baseball cap, to show our connection to Hank and the organization. A friend of the family came over to us, said she and her family had camped with Hank and Barbara in the early years. The casket was removed from the hearse draped in the American flag and placed over the open grave. Two uniformed honor guards folded the flag and presented it to Hank's daughter, Suzanne. One of the guards blew taps while the casket was lowered into the grave. The formal Jewish burial ceremony was performed, with eulogies by the rabbi, Suzanne and the friend I mentioned. Hank led a full and eventful life of service. He was revered, loved, admired, respected by all who knew him.

Phill & Gloria Steinberg, New York



Hank with (L) Anthony & Elva Forte and (R) Bob
& Diane Melnick at a Hank Nathan Reunion.

Buzz Grondin(L) presents
Hank with a t-shirt from
the Minnesota
Campvention.



Hank presenting a Youth of the
Year Award to Shawn Scott,



Retiree Rally 2017

March 21 - 27, 2017

Canton Civic Center

Canton, Texas



From the 2017 FCRV Retiree Rally Coordinators

By Barb & Jim Turner

With the new year upon us, the countdown is on for the 2017 FCRV Retiree Rally in Canton, Texas March 21-27 at the Canton Civic Center/First Monday Trade Park (800 Flea Market Road, Canton, Texas 75103). Early days are March 17, 18, 19, and 20. The rally chairs, co-chairs, and committees are planning a wonderful week.

Circus, Circus – Under the Big Top will be the 46th annual retiree rally and will have some differences. The formal opening will be Tuesday evening, followed by the introduction of the International King & Queen contest participants. The International Parade will follow to give the rally a LOUD, NOISY start! For those of you who haven't attended a retiree rally, the parade has been at the end to conclude the rally. The parade is a time for rally participants to parade across the stage with state/provincial flags with LOTS of noise. With the new format, the first group across the stage to 'strut their stuff' will be Missouri as the home state of our reigning King & Queen, Dallas & Barb Dodson. Next will be the state of Texas where the rally is being held. The states/provinces of the king & queen contest participants will follow in the order that they submitted their applications to the King & Queen coordinators. Then the states & provinces will follow. The last groups will be our FCRV national chapters – Full-Timers, Kentucky Colonels, and YARs. The final group will be the Red Hat ladies, a tradition started by Jim Bob Ealey at Canton in 2006. The balance of the evening will be time to socialize and enjoy refreshments.

What else can you expect? There will be classes/seminars, including those by our vendors as well as line dancing and Android phones seminar. We are planning to play regular bingo, in addition to the games card bingo. The King & Queen ball will be a

King & Queen party with the YARs chapter providing the reception in keeping with the circus theme.

Golfers – bring your clubs! Jim will host another scramble, always a fun time on the links. The popcorn machine will be popping most of the week!! A week in Canton, Texas the end of March is an event you won't want to miss!

Penny Ramlow, the registration chair, will be looking for your registration! See you there!



From Our Retiree Directors

Hope everyone has had a good holiday and are now back to normal days and starting to think about camping.

We are now only three months away from the International Retiree Rally. So in the near future start making your plans on being in Canton, Texas. There is a lot planned, and we don't think you will want to miss this one.

We need Kings and Queens from different states & provinces to sign up. You may be our next International King and Queen. You can ask those who have done it before, and I am sure they will say they have had a good time doing it.

If you have never attended a Retiree Rally, you have missed some good times. With lots of fellowship, fun and food, you will meet a lot of people and becomes friends with most of them. The best way to meet the people is to get involve with activities or be on committees. It makes it more fun that way.

Remember you don't have to be retiree to attend.

We look forward in seeing old friends and to make new ones.

FCRV National Retiree Directors
Ron & Reba Ray



FCRV Retiree Rally Carnival

by Dave Hennie, Chair

Join in the fun! Attendees, groups, chapters, and states/provinces are invited to set up a booth at the carnival planned Wednesday afternoon.

At this time I have the following booths spoken for: 'pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey', 'ring toss', 'duck pond', 'darts', 'ball toss', 'potty toss', and 'squirt gun game'.

The winners of the various games will win tickets. The tickets will be turned in for prizes. The more tickets you win the better the prize type.

I am looking for more games. Please email what you'd like to do to add to the fun!

rpalace1170@aol.com



COME, COME to the Big Top FCRV International Retiree Rally March 21 to 27 in Canton, Texas

Wouldn't it be fun to join in the excitement of participating in the Retiree King and Queen contest? All you need to do is to be selected as Retiree K & Q from your Providence or State. There doesn't have to be a separate retiree chapter – it can be just your providence or state organization that selects you.

You get to meet many new people and make new friends. Other friends will help you prepare for your Hospitality (yum yum).

Call or email Ronald & Jo Hersom, K & Q Coordinators, (snail mail will be too slow now) to get an application form and information about conducting your campaign.

This can include a 300 word or less bio to DeWayne Johnson (d_johnson01@msn.com) for inclusion into Camping Today. That should be done soon to meet printing deadlines for winter issues.

Enjoy yourselves, have fun and be part of the FCRV Retiree Rally.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Ronald & Jo Hersom, King & Queen Coordinators
641-750-2774 (cell)

ronjorvr@gmail.com



Door Prizes Needed

It's not too early to be gathering door prizes for the 2017 Retiree Rally. We all enjoy getting a prize, and we hope you will help us by ensuring that we have plenty. Thanks for your help.

Barb and Dal Dodson
Door Prize Chairs



Security Committee

Security Team at Canton, TX can use a few more people to sign up. If you would like to be on the Security team, please contact:

Chairmen Dwight & Barb Bonifield at
FCRV2004@aol.com or 740-607-3323.

FCRV Retiree Rally Choir



CALLING ALL VOICES! Sign up for the Retiree Rally Choir. Sign-up sheets will be located in the registration area. Everyone is welcome, regardless of experience. George Walters, choir director



Food Bank



We are coming to you in asking for aid and support of the local food bank in Canton, Texas in March, 2017. It would help them to be able to purchase more food with cash, but we will take all gifts. Our FCRV family has always had an open heart to give to the area where we enjoy your rallies.

Love, Ashley & Gloria Taylor, Food Bank Chairs

Lap Robes



As has been our tradition for several FCRV Retiree Rallies, we make and donate lap robes for area nursing homes and hospitals in our rally host location. We hope you have been working on lap robes for Canton, Texas in March.

Kay & Frank Newman, Lap Robes Chairs



Variety Night Show Tradition Continues

For the last several years it has been the tradition of the Retiree Rally to have a variety show after the very moving Memorial Service. This has allowed us to transition from a fitting remembrance of FCRV members who have died since the last rally to a relaxing and fun evening that features our own homegrown talent.

The variety night lasts about 90 minutes, and we try to have 12-15 'acts.' Individuals are allowed 5 minutes, and group skits are allowed 10 minutes. We usually have several states and a couple of provinces represented in this variety night.

Sign-up will be during the first two days of registration, but now is the time to be thinking about something you, your chapter, state/province could perform to entertain us all. If you can sing, do recitations, play an instrument, dance, do monologues – comic or serious-, or have a group skit, we hope you'll sign up.

Think about it, and we'll see you at registration.

Jack Smye
Variety Night Chairman



Red Hat Luncheon

Ladies, a Red Hat luncheon is being planned for Canton in March. You will purchase your ticket in the registration area.

And, in keeping with our tradition, ladies, the Red Hat ladies will be the final group to parade during the International Parade. The parade will be on Tuesday evening following the formal rally opening and the introductions of the International King & Queen contest participants.

We look forward to seeing you in Canton!

Kathy Schreck & Dianne Buggeln, Chairs

Memorial Ceremony



By Rev. Harold Braley

Please let Rev. Braley know about members deaths of your state or province , so they can be read at the National Retiree Rally memorial service.

Send names to hbraley@outlook.com

Alternates Committee

By Joan Micelli, Chair



Calling on members attending the Retiree Rally in Canton to serve on the Alternates Committee. Members of the committee fill in where needed during the rally. It gives attendees a chance to serve in many areas of the rally, meeting new people, and having a great time as well. If interested, contact Joan & Richard Micelli at rjmicelli@gmail.com or Joan's cell phone 770-713-3022. I would love to hear from you.

The more attendees participate, the more fun they will have!



'Canines Go to Canton, Texas'

By Robert & Rita Letellier,
Pet Parade Chairs

The theme for the pet parade in March 2017 will be: "Canines Go to Canton, Texas." Categories: 1) Best Trick 2) Cutest Dog 3) Best Behaved 4) Pet/Owner Look-a-Like 5) Best in Show 6) Non-Canine.

Awards: treats and goodies will be given to the pets.

We look forward to seeing your pets in Canton in March!



Games Committee Needs Help



Marjory & Don Bates, Games Chairs, are in need of volunteers to help with the games.. They'd like to have their names now along with which games they are willing to help with. That doesn't mean they can't play them. If you can help with the games, contact Marjory & Don Bates at mbates13@bellsouth.net

Rally Positions Needed

By Barb Turner

Jim & I, as rally coordinators, would like to fill the following positions for Canton: pianist and book exchange chair. Anyone willing to fill these positions....please contact us at turnerfcv@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Entertainment

Here is just a sample of Entertainment for the week! Sure you won't want to miss it!

Wednesday Night



Meet **Brian Koenig**

Award Winning, B-Ball Spinning, Knife Juggling, Stilt Walking, Torch Tossing, Juggler & Showman

EXTRAORDINAIRE!!

Friday Night



Wendy, Derek, Mikaela and Logan Pausewang, collectively known as Southern Anthem, bring a fresh sound to long-time country and gospel favorites. From church auditoriums, fairs and festivals, to Branson, national television appearances, and requests from Nashville and beyond, the demand for their unique family harmony now has them traveling across the US.

They create a crowd-pleasing experience full of fun audience interaction and humor that people can relate to and enjoy. Their love of "good, clean music", along with the wonderful responses they receive from their fans, are and always will be the fire that drives them.



Campvention 2017

Allen County Fairgrounds

Lima, Ohio

July 9-15, 2017



First Aid Volunteers Needed at Campvention 2017

Delbert Powell, First Aid Chair, needs volunteers for First Aid; help would be appreciated. The more volunteers he has, shortened times to work!

Contact Delbert at dlpowell54@aol.com



Security Volunteers Needed

The Campvention Security Committee needs volunteers. Security members are visible to help our attendees when needed during Campvention. For more information, contact Mike Royal, security chair, at MRoyalracing@gmail.com.



Teen Sports Volunteers Needed

Teen Sports Chairs Shannon & Louise Crookedacre will need help for the teen sports activities at Campvention. Please consider helping them.

Contact them at crookedacre@att.net.

The Miami and Erie Canal

By Barb Turner, Publicity Chair

The 2017 Family Campers & RVers Campvention in Lima, Ohio, hosted by the Great Lakes Region, July 9 – 16, will offer new areas for our members to explore either before, after, or during Campvention. With this in mind, we'll explore areas that might interest attendees in the next few months leading up to Campvention. The Miami and Erie Canal provides interesting sites within easy driving distance of the Allen County Fairgrounds, site of Campvention.

The Miami and Erie Canal was constructed on the western side of the state of Ohio to create a water route from Toledo (on Lake Erie) in the north to Cincinnati (on the Ohio River) in the south. Why? Commerce! The canal provided an easy mode of transportation for goods to travel from the northern part of Ohio to the Ohio River. From there the products/goods could be transferred to river transportation to go on down the Ohio to the Mississippi River and New Orleans where they were sold..

What an undertaking! Construction began in 1825, 22 years after Ohio became a state. It was completed in 1845! That's 20 years, at state expense of \$8,062,680.07. 'At its peak, it included 19 aqueducts, three guard locks, 105 canal locks, multiple feeder canals, and a few



Lockkeepers House

man-made water reservoirs. The canal climbed 395 feet above Lake Erie and 513 feet above the Ohio River to reach a topographical peak called the Loramie Summit which extended 19 miles between New Bremen (Lock 1 North) to Lock 1 South in Lockington, north of Piqua. Boats up to 80 feet long were towed along the canal by mules, horses, and oxen walking on a prepared towpath along the bank at a rate of 5 miles per hour.' 'Locking Through' was the process to raise and lower the canal boats as they traversed the topographical changes along the canal.



Construction of such a canal in 1825 was far different from what it would be today; thus, the 20 years. Construction requirements: water depth – 4 feet; width at water level – 40 feet; towpath width in addition to mandated outer slopes – 10 feet; all slopes were to be 4 ½ feet horizontal to 4 feet perpendicular; and the canal must accommodate boats up to 90 feet in length and 14 feet in width. How were these requirements met? Manual labor! 'Irish immigrants, convicts, and local farmers used picks, shovels and wheelbarrows to relocate the dirt and clay. This dawn to dusk labor brought in a wage of 30 cents a day.' Disease was a problem for the workers. Drunken violence was also a problem

along the construction route.

A canal, of course, needs water. Man-made reservoirs such as Grand Lake St. Marys and Lake Loramie were constructed. Several feeder canals were built. Indian Lake was greatly enlarged to provide a steady supply of water via feeder canals. (Today, you might want to enjoy the state parks at Grand Lake St. Marys, Lake Loramie, and Indian Lake, all of which are within easy driving distance of the Campvention site. They have excellent campgrounds.)

As the canal was completed in 1845, railroads were being built in Ohio. Railroads were the canal's major competitor for the remainder of its operation. Problems for the canal versus rail transportation? The canal froze over in the winter. Moving goods by canal boat was slow, especially for perishable goods as well as passenger traffic compared to the train. Even though canal services were cheaper, particularly for bulk cargoes, overall they couldn't compete with the railroad. By 1906 the canal essentially ceased operation. The Great Dayton Flood of 1913 and the dams subsequently built to prevent a similar event destroyed much of the southern infrastructure. The canal was abandoned.

What can you see today within easy driving distance of Campvention?

About 40 miles south of Lima is the historical site of **Johnston Farm & Indian Agency** (9845 N Hardin Rd., Piqua, Ohio) where you can travel a small section of the Miami and Erie Canal aboard the General Harrison canal boat. It is a 70-foot replica canal boat like those used to transport passengers and goods in the 19th century. The boat is pulled by mules along the towpath.



The General Harrison canal boat

Photo from Johnson Farm Collection

Costumed guides will take you back to that quiet time along the Miami and Erie Canal.

In addition to the canal, tour the site which tells the story of early Ohio and the Upper Miami Valley. The site was the home and farm of Col. John Johnston who served as a Federal Indian Agent in Ft. Wayne, Indiana and Piqua, Ohio. Again, costumed guides will take you back to that early period of 200+ years ago. The farm is open to the public Thursday – Sunday in June, July, and August. To learn more, visit the website at <http://johnstonfarmohio.com>.



Colonel Johnston's house

Photo from Johnson Farm Collection

North of Johnston Farm & Indian Agency, about 20 miles south of the campvention site, is Lock 1 North at New Bremen which was founded in 1832 by a group of German immigrants near the mid-point of the canal. Lock 1 North in the center of town was built at the north end of the Loramie Summit.

The canal brought great prosperity to the village with grist mills, woolen mills, sawmills, and several pork-packing plants and grain warehouses along the canal. Visit the lock and the lockmaster's house beside it. While in the village, visit the **Bicycle Museum of America** (7 W. Monroe Street, near the lock).

Over 300 bicycles are on display.

Visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqLrwQ-f5_k for much more information on the Miami and Erie Canal and other sites along the old Miami and Erie Canal in planning your trip to Campvention 2017 in Lima, Ohio next July.

Sue Fromholzer Appointed VP of Operations



I have learned the essentials of the Vice President of Operations job from the last 32 years of working with past National Directors and Vice President of Operations. This was accomplished by working at the national office for 22 years, then being office manager for 10 years. Also, I have held many volunteer positions in our great organization on the state, district and chapter level ranging from Chapter President, District Teen Director, State Campout Chairman and so many others.

Retirement has given me the opportunity to give back some of the lessons learned and to help FCRV on a new and exciting level, and I am looking forward to working with many of my friends and members of FCRV in this role.



Meet The Director!

Richard and Idamarie Roberts Nevada State Directors



Rich & Ida started camping in 1978 with a slide in camper that fit in the back of their pickup truck. They traveled to various state parks and camp grounds but never really got involved with any camping groups until they moved to Henderson Nevada. It just so happens that their adventurous life style had them on a tour bus going to the 75th Rose Parade in California. Upon

inquiring about a group of people that were traveling with them they found they were the "Cactus Bandits" a group of campers that belong to then NCHA. They were invited to attend a campout with the group and eventually joined NCHA and the Bandits. Rich and Ida over the years have held all of offices within the chapter and some of them twice.

The State of Nevada and the chapter went several years without a State representative in FCRV until 2015 when Loana Schrader, region 1 director and FCRV approved their application as State Directors. Then Loana surprised them at Campvention 2015 by asking them to take over as team teen supervisor. Instant panic, but thankful for the additional volunteers they made it through the week.

Richard is a retired computer maintenance man/supervisor/ field engineer/ were he worked for a contractor that has the maintenance contract for the US Air Force at Nellis AFB. Rich also is a amateur radio operator with a general class license call letters N7PLF along with Idamarie that hold a technician class license call letters KC7IUY.

Idamarie is a retired Clark County administrator clerk in the department whose job was to monitor the air quality in the southern region of Nevada. She is a 50 year member of Beta Sigma Phi and have also held many positions within their organization.

Rich and Idamarie have 3 daughters and 4 grandsons with a great grandson on the way. They have two grandsons living and working in Canada, one is a fireman in Maryland and the oldest is living and working in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Roberts are looking forward to working with the FCRV staff and supporting the RV life style of fun and friendship.



Prince George Falcons Celebrate 50th Anniversary



Joe Lins (R)
presents
certificate to
John Foote

D.C. Ramblers Received 45th Anniversary Certificate



Cactus Bandits 40th Anniversary

The chapter that is not supposed to exist. That's right this chapter of FCRV/NCHA is not supposed to be in existence. When the Cactus Bandits of southern Nevada was formed in 1976, the general opinion was that the chapter wouldn't last more than 3 years. For you see, this chapter was formed at Nellis AFB by military personnel. Everybody knows that the military moved people from one base to another about every 3 years. So therefore the chapter should have dissolved in 1979, but it didn't. What changed? The military. No more Vietnam, no more need to relocate personnel.

The families that made up this chapter where the type of people that FCRV is looking for, friendly, family oriented, fun loving, adventurous, hardworking, and caring of others. Thus the glue that kept the chapter going. During its peak enrollment this chapter had 25 families and a waiting list of 3 or 4 more families that wanted to join the chapter.

They all started out as young group of adults with children and tents. Over the years the tents gave way to trailers and the trailers gave way to 5th wheels and eventually some even went to motor homes.

As the years slowly past by the times changed the men retired from the service some moved back to home others made Nevada their home. Still the group stayed together added a few new members. Their camping children became young adults and found other interest in their life. So now its grandma and grandpa taking the grand kids on an outing a few times a year.

The Cactus Bandits are proud to declare that they have maintained 70% of their original membership for more than 20 years and the last 40 years have

been very memorable for 2 charter member families that are still with the group. State Director, Richard Roberts presented to the chapter president Jim Kvoool a certificate of recognition for the Cactus Bandits for achieving 40 years with NCHA/FCRV.



a chapter of fun loving people.

Jim and Lois Kvoool have held every position in the chapter from board member to president more than once and have continued to promote and guide the group. They have seen it through its hard times as well as the good times. Yes, it does sound like they are married to the cause. LOL. Past presidents and members have leaned on Jim and Lois for assistance and they have never turned them down.

State Director Richard Roberts presented to Jim and Lois Kvoool a certificate of achievement for 40 years of hard work to keep the Cactus Bandits moving forward with the times.



Rudy and Shelia Rehfeld also have worked to make the chapter fun and adventurous. They started out as regular members but soon found themselves as youth directors for the state of Nevada and later as the kids left the family they were promoted to Field Director. When the last state director left the chapter and the vacancy was hard to fill, they graciously filled in until the position was taken on by the current member. They performed these duties above and beyond the normal call to duty for over 28 years. Rudy and Shelia where also presented with a certificate of



achievement for 40 years of work within the Cactus Bandits.

Rehfeld's have to retire from camping do to health reasons. So a special award was given by past State Director Marie Cormier to Rudy and Shelia for 28

years of dedication service.

The Nevada State Director would like to thank Jim, Lois, Rudy, and Shelia for putting together a chapter of fun loving, hardworking, and adventurous group of adults. The increase in friends has meant an increase in family.

FCRV Activities

The 50/50 Poker Walk: Group Activity and Fundraiser

By Dale Davis, FCRV and Tidewater Wheels
Member Since 2013

The Tidewater Wheels, an FCRV chapter, was formed in the early 1990s with the aim of establishing a recreational camping organization in coastal Virginia. The chapter's goal is to promote a friendly, fun and welcoming environment for campers and guests of all ages.

President, Gail Mulleavy, understands how important it is to be alert to the changing needs of an organization with over 30 members. She works closely with the club to coordinate and vary campout activities and is always looking for fresh ideas that will bring people together.

Gail's husband, Stephen, recently suggested a "50/50 Poker Walk". A 50/50 is a fundraiser that involves the sale of raffle tickets with the proceeds being split between the winner and the organization. A Poker Walk is an event where participants must visit different checkpoints, drawing a playing card at each one. The object is to have the best five-card poker hand at the end of the walk.

Stephen Mulleavy's plan to combine the 50/50 raffle with a Poker Walk took shape and was a huge crowd-pleaser at the Tidewater Wheels' November

campout in Virginia Beach. Here's how the game was played:



**Helen Jones draws her first card
at a checkpoint.**

Campers paid \$5 each to participate. Four different members' campsites were identified as the checkpoints. Participants walked to a checkpoint and drew a playing card from a deck. At each checkpoint different refreshments were served to encourage players to stick around and mingle. The fifth and final playing card was drawn at the evening's Thanksgiving celebration potluck dinner. Then, players who wanted to trade a card in their hand for a new one paid an additional \$2. The person with the best five-card poker hand was declared the winner and received half the proceeds. The other half went to the club treasury. It was decided a card draw would be used in case of a tie.



**President, Gail Mulleavy, holds the deck for Jerry
Hines and Sharon Jacobs to draw their 5th card.**

Over 40 people, between the ages of 19 months and 93 years old, attended the Tidewater Wheels Thanksgiving celebration campout. During the weekend there were campfires, cookouts, cornhole games and even a mini-golf tournament, but the event that members are still talking about is the 50/50 Poker Walk.

Is your club looking for an enjoyable, interactive group activity? Do you need to raise money to help cover campout expenses? The 50/50 Poker Walk

may be just the event you've been searching for and there are endless possibilities with this game!



The Tidewater Wheels Camping Club celebrates Thanksgiving at the November campout.

If you have questions about the Tidewater Wheels or want to share your group activity ideas, send email to PresidentTWW@gmail.com. Come camp with us!



Hannah and Hailey Northern dress in costume for the holiday.

Winter Texans

By DeWayne Johnston

31 FCRV Winter Texans enjoyed Tuba Christmas concert at UTRGV on Dec. 4. A record 450 players from age 11 to retirement took part. Please see the photos below.

Following the concert 24 of the FCRV members enjoyed a family style meal at Rudy's BBQ in Pharr. The food and conversation were enjoyed by all!



RV Road Trip Through Georgia State Parks from I-75 North



There's no better way to see the diverse beauty of Georgia—from the canyons & waterfalls in the north to the spellbinding marsh mist and Spanish moss of the coast—than in an RV. More than 30 state parks in virtually every region of the state have become a favorite destination for RV campers.

Georgia State Parks feature all the convenience of modern RV camping (electrical/water hookups, fire rings and grills, comfort stations with hot showers and laundry, pull-through sites for large RVs and dumping stations). Reservations are just a click away, and an added perk: this December and January, save 50% on campsites with promo code WinterPromo16. Book at GaStateParks.org/Reservations or call 1-800-864-7275. For a list of participating state parks, visit GaStateParks.org/map; not valid at Crooked River, Skidaway, Reed Bingham, Fort McAllister and Laura S. Walker state parks. Learn more at GaStateParks.org/specials.



As snowbirds and RVers are traveling down I-75

to the South, stop by these four Georgia State Parks, just off the interstate, for a break to stretch out the legs and enjoy the outdoors.

[Red Top Mountain State Park](#) (Acworth, Exit 285)

While best known for the 12,000-acre lake, Red Top Mountain is also a hiker's haven. More than 15 miles of trails wind through the forested park, providing opportunities to stretch your legs during a long haul. One of the more popular trails is the Homestead Trail, 5.5 miles, that travels through hardwood and pine forest and features several historic homesteads along the route. For those who are traveling with a boat, use one of the park's many boat ramps to explore Lake Allatoona.

[High Falls State Park](#) (Jackson, Exit 198)

High Falls State Park is named for tumbling cascades on the Towaliga River, and a short hike on the Falls Trails leads to the scenic waterfall. High Falls Lake is also known as one of the "Top 100 Family Fishing Destinations" and the park is a goldmine for hybrid and white bass. Play a round of miniature golf just steps from your RV—the course is located in the campground.

[Georgia Veterans State Park](#) (Cordele, Exit 101)

Anybody with a passion for history should visit the park's museum that features aircraft (including a Boeing B-29A), armored vehicles, uniforms, weapons, medals and other items from the Revolutionary War through the Gulf War. Bring golf clubs to play a few rounds on the park's 18-hole golf course, Lake Blackshear Golf Course, that has many scenic holes bordering Lake Blackshear.

[Reed Bingham State Park](#) (Adel, Exit 39)

One of the southernmost state parks in Georgia, Reed Bingham is perfect for paddling any time of the year. Rent canoes and kayaks to paddle through the beautiful lake, populated with fragrant water lilies and tupelo trees. Bring a fishing pole and cast a line for bass, crappie, catfish and bream. On land, hike along the park's Coastal Plain Nature Trail, and discover 80 percent of the Coastal Plains' plant community, making the park of the most diverse ecosystems in the country.

Benefit from RVing and sign up for the free RV Club membership and earn free camping nights (every 10th night stay is free) with the RV Passport. All members receive a welcome kit with a Club Passport, a free key chain and decal for your RV. More information at GaStateParks.org/RVClub.

THIS 'N THAT

- According to "RV Business" 435,000 RVs will be ordered in 2017. Average sale prices is \$60,000 to \$100,000. Generation Xers and Baby Boomers are the best customers. Northern Indiana is a beneficiary with lower unemployment rates.
- A 12 million dollar budget deficit in the National Park service has prompted the House of Representatives to ready a bill to provide badly needed funds by raising the Senior 62 and over pass from the \$10 lifetime to \$80 or annual pass for \$20. A companion measure in the Senate differs slightly. For details see www.nationalparktraveller.com.
- The auction and flea market at Shipshewana, Indiana has opened a new RV service center next to the company's RV park which is adding 94 full hook-up sites.
- The Recreational Vehicle Association's 54th annual National RV Trade Show in Louisville had strong attendance by dealers, vendors, repair shops, distributors, and campgrounds. There were many attendants from outside the U.S. which comprised 18% of the global market last year. The sales outlook for 2017 is optimistic.

RVIA Applauds Signing of REC Act by President Obama

RVIA applauds the signing of the Outdoor Recreation's Economic Contributions Act (REC Act) by President Barack Obama.

RVIA has been a strong advocate for the legislation, which directs the U.S. Department of Commerce to analyze and report on the full economic impact of the outdoor recreation economy. This invaluable data will be critical in helping federal, state and local governments make informed policy and business decisions that impact outdoor recreation enthusiasts, including RV owners.

"We are thrilled to see the REC Act signed into law," said RVIA President Frank Hugelmeyer. "This is a great win for the outdoor recreation community and the RV industry. This research will provide policymakers at all levels of government with critical information to properly invest in recreation infrastructure that will allow the current and next generation RVers to enjoy the iconic federal lands and campgrounds for many years to come."

RVIA has been aggressively advocating on this issue throughout the current legislative session and made it a central topic in discussions with legislators during the association's Capitol Hill Advocacy Day this past June. RVIA Chairman of the Board Bob

Parish cited the efforts of the 73 RV industry executives taking part in Advocacy Day as a crucial step in building support for the legislation.

"RVIA members helped illustrate the economic impact of the RV and outdoor recreation industries to more elected officials on Capitol Hill than ever before," he said. "That effort resonated with the passing of the REC Act in both houses in Congress and in President Obama's signing the legislation."

Passage of this bill through Congress would not have been possible without the support of numerous House and Senate RV Caucus members who co-sponsored the bill.

"Indiana's 2nd District is the RV Capital of the World, so I know how vital the recreation industry is to our nation's economy," said House RV Caucus Co-Chair Representative Jackie Walorski (IN-2). "I am honored to be a co-sponsor of the REC Act, which will ensure we have a full picture of the economic impact of these businesses and the jobs they create so we can keep this industry growing."

"We are very thankful for the bipartisan support of the REC Act among members of Congress in both houses," said Hugelmeyer. "They had a keen appreciation of the need for this legislation to arm legislators and federal officials with data to make well-informed decisions on outdoor recreation issues and initiatives."

Winterizing Your RV: 9 Steps To Protect Your RV This Winter

By Connie Hays

1. How to winterize your RV plumbing

A. You need to drain the holding tanks first. Connect the macerator hose to a drain in the garage floor. You must get ALL the water out of these tanks before winterizing. Otherwise, the tanks will freeze and be damaged.

B. Next, drain the fresh water tank in the same way.

C. Now it's time to drain the water heater. To start, remove the cover of the water heater.**IMPORTANT SAFETY WARNING:** First, pull the pressure release valve to ensure that all the pressure is out of the tank. Then drain the tank. Some RVs (those with steel tanks) will have an anode rod. You loosen this to drain the tank.

D. Use an air compressor to blow out the plumbing. Don't go over 30 PSI or you could damage your plumbing. Use a pressure adapter to attach the incoming water hookup to the air compressor. Blow

out all the remaining water in the water heater.

E. Next you need to bypass the water heater. The water heater location may vary depending on your model. Most water heaters have a bypass loop which you can activate by turning on the bypass valve and turning off the input and output valves to the heater.

F. Now you'll need to go around and, one by one, open every faucet inside the RV and leave it open until nothing but air comes out. You should only open one faucet at a time, so that all the air pressure is directed to clearing that water line. Note that hot and cold need to be drained separately, even if the sink has only one faucet handle. If it has only one handle, you need to rock it all the way to left until all the water is gone, then do the same thing all the way to the right.

For the toilet, hold the flush button lever just a little until nothing but air comes out.

You will need to clear the outside shower this way, too.

Once you have blown out all the faucets, you can disconnect the air compressor from the city water intake.

G. Now it's time to put RV antifreeze into your plumbing.

IMPORTANT SAFETY WARNING: Do NOT use automotive antifreeze. It is highly toxic. It will kill you when you use your RV plumbing again in the spring, even if you think you've rinsed out all the antifreeze.

RV antifreeze is pink. It isn't toxic. You can safely put it in your RV plumbing system.

Not everyone does this next step, but Mike Wendland and his friend Hank suggest it in this video on winterizing your RV. Basically, you pump antifreeze in right at the water pump rather than filling the fresh tank with antifreeze. As Hank explains, when you fill the tank with antifreeze, the taste of antifreeze sticks with you almost all camping season. Yuck! With this technique, you don't get any antifreeze into your tank.

Here's how to do it. Consult your RV owner's manual to figure out where the water pump is on your model. Remove the inlet hose from the water pump. As Hank says, you can find this by locating the white strainer on the inlet side of the pump. Now attach a hose to the inlet of the pump and stick the hose into a bottle of antifreeze.

Now turn the water pump on. One by one, go to each faucet and run hot and cold separately until they show a flow of pink. Do the same thing with the toilet and outside shower.

H. Now it's time to replace the cap or anode rod on

the water heater. Seal the threads with Teflon tape or pipe dope before screwing it in. Close up all water tanks as well.

1. Pour some antifreeze down every drain in the RV. That's it—you're done with the plumbing part.

2. Remove food and personal items

Use common sense and good hygiene here. Any type of food left in the RV will attract mice and bugs, so clean out every food storage area completely. Take all cold food out of the fridge and freezer. Even dry goods in cans, bags, and plastic containers have to go. The cans could freeze and explode, and mice can chew through plastic. If there is any food left in your RV, mice WILL find a way in, even if you take all the sealing precautions mentioned below (Step 5).

Take out all laundry and cloth products as well. If these have any type of food residue on them, they will attract pests even if you've removed all your food.

Lastly, remove any valuables, just to be on the safe side.

3. Clean the inside of your RV thoroughly

Wipe down every surface, especially those that might have food residues on them. Vacuum as necessary.

Thaw your freezer completely and let it dry out with the door open. Leave the freezer and fridge doors open and block them open so they don't close. Put a fresh, open box of baking soda in each place where food is stored to keep everything odor-free for spring.

4. Turn off electrical systems

You need to turn off your RV's water pump, water heater, and other electrical appliances. Throw the main circuit breaker to the OFF position. Remove all batteries from small appliances.

5. Cover all vents and openings

Block the exhaust pipe with steel wool. Rodents love to crawl in here. You should also cover all vents and openings with screening. Close all roof vents and make sure the roof is in good repair. Check window seals for caulking failures and repair them as necessary.

Basically, you need to seal the RV so that mice and insects can't get in. You don't want to find a surprise in the spring.

6. Take weight off tires

If you leave your RV parked on its tires all winter, the tires could develop flat spots. If they are under-inflated, or if they lose some air over the course of several months, the sidewalls could begin to crack, which will make the tires unsafe to ride on in the

spring.

Basically, you need to take some weight off your RV tires while the vehicle is parked for the winter. You need to park it on a hard, level concrete pad. Do NOT park on asphalt. Roger M, blogger over at RV Tire Safety, warns that this can cause damage to the rubber. He suggests parking your tires on 2×8 planks. See Roger's [blog post](#) for some great pictures and an excellent writeup on how to do this.

Also, don't park the RV on bare ground, mud, grass, or gravel.

If your RV has leveling jacks, you can use these to raise your rig off the ground. Follow your owner's manual. If your RV doesn't have leveling jacks, you can use external jacks, as long as they are heavy duty and you're parked on hard, level concrete.

The goal is to lift *some* pressure off the tires. However, you don't want your tires hanging in the air! They should still be in contact with the ground. Set the parking brake and block all four wheels in the front and the back.

Note: You CANNOT use stabilizing jacks to park your RV for the winter.

If you don't have any jacks you can use, you will need to move your RV occasionally. The goal is to rotate the tires about one half rotation. Just start the RV, put it in drive or reverse, and let it creep forward or backward about 3 feet. You can do this 2-3 times during the winter, and your RV will be fine.

You should always creep forward in the same direction. If you creep forward for the first rotation, then creep backward the same distance for the second rotation, you could end up with the tires in the same position as when you started, which would cancel out what you just did.

7. Cover your tires

You'll want to cover your tires with white RV tire covers. Along with taking the weight off the tires, covering them will help prevent cracking and dry rotting.

8. Cover your RV with a breathable RV cover

You need to keep your RV covered, but make sure you use a breathable cover. You don't want mold and mildew forming under there when the temperature is above freezing. Cover your RV and tie down the corners of the cover. This will protect your RV all winter.

9. Keep the roof clear of snow

Unlike the roof on your house, your RV roof can't hold the weight of snow. Any time you get fresh snow, you should clean the roof off as soon as pos-

sible. This will be easier before the snow has a chance to compress under new snow—or, even worse, before it partially melts and freezes solid again. Use a short step ladder and a shovel, and be careful.

The Bottom Line

While every RV is different, you can follow these basic steps (modified to fit your model), and you'll be in good shape for winter. Stay safe, and here's to camping again in the spring!

Connie's Blog: <http://mobilehomepartsstore.com/latestnews/winterize-rv-9-steps/>

Products



NEWERTECH LAUNCHES NUPOWER USB-C POWER ADAPTER

Woodstock, IL— **NewerTech** <http://www.newertech.com>, a leading performance upgrades and accessories company for Macs and other Apple products since 1984, announced today the **NewerTech NuPower 60W USB-C Power Adapter, a compact, dual port, fast charging adapter for Mac and Windows USB-C compatible MacBooks, laptops, Chromebooks, and standard USB-A devices, including iPhone and Android smartphones, tablets, and storage drives.** The NuPower 60W USB-C Power Adapter <http://www.newertech.com/products/nupower-usb-c-power-adapter/> provides 2



ports: 1 port with **60 watts of power** to charge the latest USB-C devices and 1 port with 12 watts to simultaneously charge current standard USB-A devices, including high-powered devices, such as tablets and external drives, as well as smartphones. The NuPower adapter lets you consolidate the power

adapters you need to bring while traveling for a lighter load to charge your smartphones, tablets, and laptops quickly on the road.

Charges USB Devices Up to 2 Times Faster than Comparable Chargers

With 5V@6A, the NuPower 60W USB-C Power Adapter is powerful, charging USB devices **up to 2X faster than comparable chargers**, so you can get back to using your essential devices quickly. The NuPower adapter is a seamless replacement for the laptop's original power adapter, compatible with Apple, Dell, Lenovo, HP and other USB-C laptop power adapters, with an additional second port to charge a standard USB-A smartphone or tablet at the same time. In addition, it comes complete with a USB-C cable, so you'll be ready to charge right out of the box.

NewerTech NuPower 60W USB-C Power Adapter Features:

- Fast charging with up to 60W of power.
- Powers USB-C and USB-A devices simultaneously.
- USB-C cable included. deal replacement for Apple, Dell, Lenovo, HP and other USB-C laptop power adapters.
- System Requirements: any device that charges via USB Standard-A or Type-C ports.
- Compact dimensions: Width: 2" (52 mm) x Length: 4.2" (106 mm) x Height: 0.8" (21 mm).
- Light-weight: 0.3 lb (4.8 oz).

NuPower 60W USB-C Power Adapter replaces power adapters for:

- Apple 29W USB-C Power Adapter, MJ262LL/A.
- Dell 30-Watt AC Adapter - USB-C, 24YNH.
- Lenovo ThinkPad USB-C 45W AC Adapter, 4X20E75131.
- HP 45W USB-C AC Adapter, N8N14AA.
- HP 45W USB-C Power Adapter, V5Y26UT.
- Google Universal Type-C Charger, PA-1600-23.
- All future USB-C devices.

Availability & Pricing

The NuPower 60W USB-C Power Adapter is available immediately from NewerTech.com priced at **\$59.99** at: <http://www.newertech.com/products/nupower-usb-c-power-adapter/>. It comes with NewerTech NuPower 60W USB-C Power Adapter, 1.8 m (6 ft) two-prong power cable, and 0.5 m (18 inch) USB Type-C to Type-C cable.

For more information, see <http://www.newertech.com>. NewerTech also provides power adapters for international use, see <https://eshop.macsales.com/search/OWCPWRCBL2> for more info.

AIR LIFT RELEASES NEW LOAD-LIFTER 7500 XL FOR PICKUPS THAT NEED MAXIMUM LOAD LEVELING ABILITY

LANSING, Mich. - Air Lift is expanding its load assist product line with the new LoadLifter 7500 XL (tm) series kits, which offer extreme load leveling capabilities.



The LoadLifter 7500 XL is now Air Lift's heaviest-rated air spring kit, built to provide 7,500 pounds of load-leveling capacity. For owners

of 3/4- and 1-ton pickups that tow or haul heavy loads like slide-in campers, 5th-wheel RV trailers or gooseneck flatbed trailers, this kit provides an unbeatable combination of adjustability and ride quality.

This heavy duty air spring system provides a solution for vehicle squat, which can result from carrying heavy loads. By properly distributing weight to all four wheels, the LoadLifter 7500 XL maximizes vehicle stability while eliminating unsafe and uncomfortable driving conditions such as poor braking, unresponsive steering, trailer sway, body roll and bottoming out. This kit also smoothes out the formerly rough ride that could result from heavy duty towing and hauling.

The massive 7-inch double-bellows air springs have been specifically designed to handle extreme loads and offer greater leveling at all pressures for a safe, stable and comfortable ride. Air adjustable from 5 to 100 PSI, the air springs keep vehicles stable, level and comfortable whether loaded or unloaded.

The air springs are constructed with a reinforced two-ply fabric for maximum strength and long-lasting durability, and feature end caps made of light and ultra-strong corrosion-proof nylon composite. The LoadLifter 7500 XL kits come with Air Lift's exclusive roll plates, which protect the air springs from sharp edges and increase load capacity up to 10 percent.

Many LoadLifter 7500 XL kits will require no drilling into the frame and install in three hours or less, and come with a fully illustrated instruction manual. For convenient inflation and deflation of the air springs, Air Lift offers automatic, wired and wireless on-board air compressor systems.

All Air Lift products are backed by an industry-exclusive lifetime warranty that covers the entire contents of the air spring kit. The company also ensures product satisfaction with a 60-day no-questions-asked, money-back guarantee on all load support air springs and on-board compressor systems.

AMPware Creates Protective Smartphone Case with Emergency Generator

Fold out crank makes it possible to power up low batteries in a pinch



Portable chargers and cases have been around for years now making life easier and more convenient, considering most people have a smartphone. The problem with these battery banks is that they also have to be charged to be useful, meaning electricity is key. Imagine being caught in a brutal storm or natural disaster, the electricity goes out and there is no option available to charge a dead phone battery. Mark Gabriel found himself in that exact situation during Hurricane Katrina when he only had a hand crank radio, a phone with a dead battery and no source of electricity. He became frustrated with the fact that something as important as a smartphone became useless after a day without charging it. Mark and Erik Durr then set their minds to solving that problem and came up with AMPware.

The AMPware case is a patent-pending charge case that has a crank located on the back of the case that folds out and can be turned to generate enough power for one hour of normal use from five minutes of cranking. As an additional bonus, the crank also doubles as a kickstand while watching videos. AMPware cases create significantly more power than solar cases and can be conveniently used whenever and wherever there isn't an accessible outlet or charger available. The AMPWare case is also less of a hassle than other portable chargers because there aren't any cords involved and it can never be forgotten since it is attached directly to the phone.



The AMPware case is currently available for iPhone 6/6S and comes in either Shadow or Sport color options. It features a 1000 mAh max output, mini 8 pin connector that is replaceable and a rubberized knob that telescopes outward for a better grip. The case is made out of a tough polycarbonate shell and durable polyurethane rubberized bumper for drop

protection.

AMPware cases have a MSRP of \$89.00. More information about AMPware cases can be found at <http://www.getampware.com/>.



Larson Electronics Releases a New Magnetic Mounting Plate for Spotlights

Larson Electronics, a leading industrial lighting company, has announced the release of a mounting plate for the 2015+ Ford F150 series of trucks providing the capability of mounting magnetic base lights to the new aluminum bodies.

The GMP-F150-2015 magnetic mounting plate from Larson Electronics is compatible with the 2015 and newer models of the Ford™ F-150 pickup trucks. This unit is manufactured in Texas with a durable aluminum frame and a stainless steel mounting plate surface. The magnetic mounting plate is installed to the rear cab lights and includes a rubber gasket for weatherproof sealing. The aluminum body is powder coated in an optional black, white, or grey finish and provides corrosion resistance. Two rubber bushings attached to the aluminum frame protects the roof's surface from scratches and other damage that could be caused from vibrations.

"Larson's new mounting plate was designed for Golight Spotlights, but is ideal for all types of lights with a magnetic base and is compatible with the 2015 F-150 pickup trucks by Ford," said Rob Bresnahan, CEO of Larson Electronics. "This plate gives operators the capability to use magnetic base lights on the aluminum body and eliminates the need of having to drill holes to mount other lights as well."

Larson Electronics carries an extensive line of LED light towers, portable power distributions, explosion proof lights for hazardous locations, portable work lights and industrial grade LED area lights. You can view Larson Electronics' entire catalog of products by visiting them on the web at Larsonelectronics.com. You can also call 1-800-369-6671 to learn



more about their products or call 1-214-616-6180 for international inquiries.

Farewells †

Carmen Crowell, 12-2-16, Nova Scotia, Canada

Arlene Merchant, 12-7-16, Nova Scotia, Canada

Dave Mondato, 12-17-16, Colleyville. Texas, Long Tall Texans Chapter. long time member.

Martha Casper, 92, 12-16, Lansdale, PA, long time member

So You Think You Know Everything!

- If you are an average American, in your whole life, you will spend an average of 6 months waiting at red lights.
- It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
- Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.
- Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.
- No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
- On a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament building is an American flag.
- There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous
- Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.
- Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks; otherwise it will digest itself.



Upcoming Events

March 27 – 29, 2017 – Fulltimers Post Rally Winter Campout

Stay Away Ranch RV Park, 10101 State Hwy. 31 E., Murchison, TX 75778, ph.903-469-4477. For more Information, email melvinlc@juno.com

March 27-31, 2017 - YARS Spring Campout

Civic Center, Mineola, Texas, \$25/night. Contact pramlow@aol.com.

May 5 – 7, 2017 – Blue Water Mixer Spring 2017

Pt. Huron Twp Park, Water St. MI. **Activities include:** adult & family games, soup lunch, Saturday dinner potluck (district will provide the chicken for Saturday dinner), Sunday potluck breakfast, fun for all ages. Come have fun and relax. **50/50 drawings (Saturday) in place of activity fee.** View the [registration form](#) for more information and to let us know you are coming.

May 19-21, 2017 - MD/DC State Association Campout

Walkersville MD. Enjoy camping, weekend festivities and meeting new people. Saturday the town has yard sales, train rides, strawberry festival, and open house at VFD/EMS. For more information and registration form, please contact Cheri Fox at 202-503-8155, drfox623@aol.com and/or Linda Foote, 301-843-0543, falconcamping@gmail.com.

May 19-25, 2017 - South Carolina Spring Campout

New Green Acres RV Resort, Waterboro, SC. Reservations 843-538-3450

Let's show everyone the fun, unusual, and interesting activities we participate in at our campouts! Send articles (don't have to be long) and/or pictures to d_johnston01@msn.com or mail to 126 Hermitage RD., Butler, PA 16001 for the Camping Today. We'd also like to have information on members who have reached a milestone such as anniversary, birthday or received special recognition outside of FCRV.



REGISTRATION FORM

FAMILY CAMPERS AND RVERS

46TH National Retiree Rally

CANTON CIVIC CENTER/FIRST MONDAY TRADE PARK

800 FLEA MARKET RD, CANTON, TEXAS 75103

MARCH 21, 2017 – MARCH 27, 2017

EARLY DAYS ARE: MARCH 17TH – MARCH 20TH

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST: _____ SPOUSE/OTHER: _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST/PROVINCE: _____ ZIP/POSTAL: _____
ADDRESS OF OTHER IF DIFFERENT: _____ CITY: _____ ST/PROVINCE: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ WOULD YOU LIKE IT SENT IN PDF FILE: YES _____ NO _____
HOME PHONE #: _____ CELL PHONE #: _____
IS THIS YOUR FIRST RETIREE RALLY: YES _____ NO _____ ARE YOU A VETERAN? _____

CONFIRMATION LETTERS WILL BE SENT IN JANUARY 2017. I WOULD LIKE IT SENT TO:

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP/POSTAL: _____

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2017**YOUR CONFIRMATION LETTER MUST BE PRINTED AND PRESENTED AT REGISTRATION.****DO NOT HAVE IT SENT TO A CELL PHONE.****WE MUST HAVE THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL REGISTRANTS (INCLUDING GUEST)****FEES:****EARLY BIRD PARKING (MARCH 17 – 20): FEE IS \$20 A NIGHT AND INCLUDES WATER, ELECTRIC, AND SEWER.****EARLY BIRD FEE PAID IN CANTON, TX AT REGISTRATION.****RALLY FEES: (MARCH 21- MARCH 27 LEAVE MONDAY): INCLUDES: 6 nights of camping, 2 evening meals, Ice Cream Social, evening entertainment and all activities connected with the Rally.**

	<u>Pre-Registration (Paid in Advance in Full):</u>	<u>At the Gate:</u>
Two people in a unit:	\$215.00	\$235.00
Single person in a unit:	\$185.00	\$205.00
Camp Pass (2 people or second couple in a unit)	\$105.00	\$125.00
Camp Pass (1 person or extra person in a unit)	\$ 75.00	\$ 95.00

SPECIAL NEEDS PARKING

NOTE: To be parked in Special Needs (Handicapped) Area, you MUST HAVE ON FILE WITH THE REGISTRAR ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: a current Doctor's Certificate, State License Registration indicating Handicap plate, or Handicap card you please on your windshield. This area is reserved for:

WHEELCHAIRS, WALKERS OR THOSE WITH MOBILITY PROBLEMS; _____

NON-HANDICAPPED AREA – THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS BUT NO MOBILITY PROBLEMS: _____

GUESTS ARE WELCOME

Guests/Non-FCRV members are welcome. They may be in their own unit or with you. Have them complete a registration form and on it indicate they are your guest. We strongly suggest they enter the camping area at the same time you do. We are NOT FCRV members and are guest of: _____.

REFUND POLICY

Refunds must be requested in writing to the REGISTRAR. Refunds requested before the deadline of March 3, 2017 will receive the following: Two people in a unit: \$190.00, One person in a unit: \$160.00, Camp Pass two people: \$80.00,

Make checks or money order (US CURRENCY ONLY) payable to: FCRV/NCHA RETIREE RALLY 2017. NO CREDIT CARDS. Mail registration to: Bill and Penny Ramlow, 8009 Cherry Branch Dr., Ruskin, FL. 33573. You can contact them at 305-822-6589 and 813-545-6083 or email them at pramlow@aol.com.

I would like to volunteer for: _____

