

# CAMPING TODAY®

November 2017



"Now that's a campfire!" Kentucky Colonels Chapter hosts a Thanksgiving Campout each year at Lake Cumberland State Park near Jamestown, KY. 2017 Dates are Nov.19-25. Open to all FCRV members. See "Upcoming Events" column for details.

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**All articles/information for Camping Today should be sent to DeWayne Johnston by the first of the month prior to publication.**

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# From the President - Shari Weber



Craig & I just got back from an amazing trip to the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. We were with Adventure Caravans and they did a great job of making the fiesta a lot of fun.. Kip & Jan Cushing were there on a crew for one of the balloons. They got us on the crew too. See the pictures along with this article. We have now participated in two of Adventure Caravans adventures and had a great experience both time. I recommend that if you are planning a trip that you check with Adventure Caravans to see what they offer. There is a wide variety of rallies and caravans.

## ELECTION

The nominating committee is working diligently to identify candidates for the upcoming election. Larry Roop is the chair and would appreciate any recommendations. This is the time to put forth names so we have an election with choices. The executive board voted to not send out ballots if there is an uncontested election. Please, if you know someone who would be good in any of the three positions being elected in 2018, contact any member of the nominating committee or Larry. The people on the nominating committee are Barb Dodson from Missouri and Region 2, Connie Black from Illinois and Region 4, Joe Boswell from Maryland DC and Region 5, George Reynolds from North Carolina and Region6, and Lew Acre from Ontario and Region 7. The nominating period ends soon so put your thinking caps on and give the committee some help.

## TAMPA RV SHOW

FCRV is planning to attend the Tampa RV Show in January. This show has a very large and very broad audience. It attracts people from Canada down to Florida. The dates are January 16 - 21. If you are in Florida during that time and would like to help, please let me know. There is camping on the fairgrounds where the show is held. It is limited and must be reserved ahead of time. If you are interested in camping please notify me of that as well.

## FRIENDLY?

Our motto is that we are "The friendliest people in the world." Are you putting on your friendly face? I was impressed with how friendly campers are in general in Albuquerque where we were camped among over 1,000 RVers. So if we want to live up to our motto, we need to go that extra mile to be friendly to people and make them feel welcome within our family.

## INDUSTRY TRENDS

The American Recreation Coalition has reported that 2017 was very strong for the outdoor recreation industry. This does include us, but also includes other outdoor activities as well. They anticipate 2018 to be very strong as well. The American Great outdoors offers healthy, active "high value" fun which is what people are looking for. Key findings of the ARV are:

- >Visitation to state and national parks is on the rise
- >RVs and boats are enjoying increasing sales
- >Camping is up, skiing, archery and fishing are also up
- >Activities like camping are attracting new, more diverse participants.

I am sure all of these things hold true in Canada as well. We value outdoor activities and active participation in outdoor activities. In fact our program C.A.M.P. promotes exactly that. These are things people are looking for, we offer them, lets go out and invite those people to join our family for these fun activities.

Until the next campfire.  
Shari



Jan Cushing & Shari working on cold inflation of the balloon in preparation for the hot air.



# Letter to the Editor

Phill and I have been members since 1970. With the cooperation of age, health and finances, we hope to continue for many, many more years.

Two matters, though, are causing me concern. NCHA/FCRV was founded as a non-religious organization of family campers and hikers. However, the prayers these past few years at campventions and retiree rallies have not adhered to that. And, *Camping Today* has a religious symbol at the head of the 'Farewell' column. Our members are of several faiths, one symbol does not represent all. Considering this is a non-religious organization, there should be no symbol at all and the prayers should enable all faiths to participate.

The second matter is strictly hobo parking at a campvention. I find it unacceptable unless within the state or province. It limits the physical contact by chapter and state/provincial members who plan on activities, hospitalities and get togethers. As far as socializing or making new friends with the people next to your site - sometimes yes, sometimes no.

Sincerely,  
Gloria Steinberg

## C.A.M.P. DIRECTOR IS BACK



Donella Wilkes has returned to her duties as Director for the FCRV C.A.M.P Program (Campers Actively Moving Program). Her health has improved and she is ready to receive reports on hiking, walking, biking, etc. See [www.fcrv.org](http://www.fcrv.org) under programs for complete details. FCRV Vice President of Programs, George Walters thanked Dick and Kathy Buresh for filling in temporarily. Contact Donella at 2016 N. Ashley Dr., independence, MO 64058 ([dswilkes0160@comcast.net](mailto:dswilkes0160@comcast.net)).



## This & That

- ◆ \$850,000 will get you an amphibious motor home (Terra Wind) from Cool Amphibious International at Ridgeland, South Carolina.



- ◆ According to "Daily Press" more wheelchair accessible RVs are being produced as manufacturers realize the demand in the market.
- ◆ "RV Business" reports that Canadian coach sales are up by 39.6% and towables by 8.1% in the last 8 months.
- ◆ FCRV has been on Facebook for some time (under Family Campers & RVers) with 2 overall pages. States, CO, MI, CT, MO, WI, VT, and also a few local chapters have FB pages. Specialty Chapters - Full Timers, YARS, Kentucky Colonels.



## My 10 Favorite, Must-Have Gadgets for Full Timers

By Stephanie Mayberry

Becoming a full timer meant having to downsize for this blogger – a lot. However, she found that it didn't mean that she had to give up certain creature comforts. These are her top 10.

Read more [HERE](#).

<https://mobilerviving.com/blog/my-10-favorite-must-have-gadgets-for-full-timers>



# Retiree Rally 2018

Tallahassee, FL

March 20 - 25, 2018



## Info from Our National Retiree Directors

**“SPRING BREAK”** is coming up in March for the 2018 International Retiree Rally. March 20 – 26, 2018, in Tallahassee, Florida.

Early birds starts on March 16<sup>th</sup>, so come and visit the town and surrounding area. They have lots of museums, antique stores, Florida State University and lots of other places to visit with plenty of restaurants to eat at.

Dave and Linda Hennie have gone out of their way to make this a fun week for us. They have lots of good people working on committees to make this “Spring Break” one of the best. Each year the rallies seem to get better. Promises of good entertainment, not only at night but during the day as well, which I will leave Linda to tell you about.

I know we have been to Tallahassee before, but every time we go we still have a great time. As directors, when you start looking for new places to go, we find out that most of them are out-priced or they do not have the facilities that we need. So we have limited choices on where we can go. If anyone has any suggestions of places, please let us know as we can check them out.

Again, fill out your applications and send it in to join us. I am sure you are not going to miss this one.

Ron & Reba Ray,  
NATIONAL RETIREE DIRECTORS



## SPRING BREAK FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART



Do you remember Spring Break from your younger days? For most of us it was “many” years ago. Now’s your chance...we are bringing out all the fun aspects of Spring Break at the 2018 International Retiree Rally in Tallahassee Florida, March 20-26.

Plans for the week are casual dress, fun, great food, fun, beach party, fun, terrific entertainment, fun, crowning a new International King and Queen, fun, greeting new friends and old and fun.

Look for details of special events for “Spring Break Week” in upcoming issues of Camping Today. As you can see we are planning to have fun, fun, fun!!!

We look forward to seeing you all in Tallahassee!

Dave and Linda Hennie, Chairmen  
Dallas and Barb Dodson, Asst. Chairmen

## 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

## International FCRV King & Queen Candidates



We are still looking for new applications for International King & Queen. Please call us at 641-752-6528 for the instructions and the application form, as snail mail will be too slow now. Campaigning is fun. You'll have a great time as well as meet all the Rally attendees.

Ronald & Jo Hersom  
FCRV Retiree King & Queen Coordinators  
905 Henry Dr., Marshalltown, IA 50158  
[rj50158@aol.com](mailto:rj50158@aol.com)

## Red Hat Luncheon



The committee is working hard on planning a fun luncheon. We will be doing something different. Looking forward to seeing all you ladies join us. Tickets will be on sale starting on Sunday, March 18th

# Entertainment

**On Tuesday, March 20** our opening night of fun will feature *Liverpool Live!* a well respected and popular Beatles Tribute band. They call themselves "the #1 working tribute to the Beatles in Florida. Members of this group include past cast members from Disney Orlando. These guys are true entertainers and completely involve the audience. FUN FUN FUN! They have played it all from community associations, corporate shows to sold out theatres. Recently they performed for over 6000 people at the Boca Raton Amphitheater." You will enjoy looking them up on their website at: [Thebandguys.com](http://Thebandguys.com).





**Wednesday, March 21** we will have the Ron and Kay Rivoli Revue. These entertainers come highly recommended and Debbie & I have seen them when they were the featured entertainers working with Adventure Caravans. Now traveling, entertaining and organizing rallies full time, they will feature many favorites from the 50's and 60's.

Singers, songwriters and entertainers, Ron & Kay are the epitome of American musicians. Their music reflects their love for God, Family, Country and the American way of life. They support our troops and veterans and pay tribute to our fallen heroes as well as the families of those who serve at every performance. Their Youtube sensation "Press One For English" has over 14.5 million views. It is featured in a PBS documentary which has been viewed worldwide - "Speaking In Tongues" and has also been featured in an episode of the MTV show "DJ and the Fro. Jimmy Sturr, a seventeen time Grammy Award winning artist, released his version of "Press One For English" on his 2008 album "Polka Cola".



"Ron and Kay Rivoli make up the dynamic duo known as Rivoli Revue. A husband and wife team, they have been performing together since 1999 and have performed not only on a National level but Internationally. They performed with Gov. Mike Huckabee on the "Huckabee Show" and have achieved #1 status with their song "I'm Country and That's O.K.", on the International market in Denmark. Their Youtube Sensation, "Press One For English", with over 14Mviews, has appeared in two PBS documentaries and created dialogue nationwide. Starring in their own Branson, Missouri show "A Heapin' Spoonful", they won "Best New Show" in 2013 with the only show comprised of all "original music" in Branson. Their antics on stage will keep you laughing and their songs about life truly hit home. You will be taken on a rollercoaster of emotions as Ron and Kay celebrate their love for God, Family and Country. Rivoli Revue – **Not Just Music – Entertainment!**"

Ron and Kay are also donating an additional 30 minute Gospel performance. Yet to be scheduled, it will probably be early in the day on Thursday.

(Public Relations Chair note: you old-timers will remember Ron & Kay as our window tint vendor and entertainers at campvention in Maine. Will be great to see them again.

**Thursday, March 22**, plan on an enjoyable evening of Variety Entertainment, provided by your fellow campers. In fact, if YOU can sing, play an instrument or tell some jokes, even dance a little, why not join us? Since the theme of the rally is Beach Party/ 60's music, maybe you can come up with a song or routine that will fit the bill. Variety Show Chairman Jack Smye will have sign-up sheets at registration. As the song says, *Let Me Entertain You!*

**Friday, March 23**, will bring back your spring break memories! Remember Annette Funicello and Frankie Avalon? Remember Beach Blankets by the sea? Remember poodle skirts and sock hops?

Well, these memories and more will come back to life in Tallahassee as we present Tommy, Jo & The Kids. Great family entertainment of the 50's and 60's featuring Tommy, his wife Jo, and the family. Wholesome entertainment, with an emphasis on the 50's and 60's! Family Entertainment at it's BEST!



**Saturday, March 24** features the King & Queen Ball. Since our DJ was such a hit in Canton, we will again have a DJ from Disc Jockeys Now. The DJ will play appropriate music for the crowning of our new Retiree King and Queen, continue for the first dance by the court, and then open the floor for all to enjoy dancing. Our DJ has been told of our theme, and promises to add to the FUN!



# Campvention 2018

July 9 - 13, 2018

The Meadow Event Park

Doswell, Virginia

## 'Where Our Country Began'

by Marjory Bates, Campvention Chair

'WHERE OUR COUNTRY BEGAN' is the theme for 2018 FCRV Campvention. Our committees are planning lots of exciting and fun activities. We hope that you will join us.

We can always use your help. So if you are interested, contact either

Reba Ray at [reba256@yahoo.com](mailto:reba256@yahoo.com),

Gerry Owens, [owensfcrv@aol.com](mailto:owensfcrv@aol.com) or

Marjory Bates at [mbates13@bellsouth.net](mailto:mbates13@bellsouth.net). We will put you in contact with that committee chair. We're planning an on-site work session for October 23-25.

Future issues of *CAMPING TODAY* will give details on entertainment, games and other activities.

We look forward to seeing you at Meadows Event Park in Doswell, Virginia for the Campvention. The dates are July 9-13. In addition to enjoying Campvention activities, there is much to see and enjoy in the area. Help us make this a great experience.



## Calling all FCRV Teens....

Are you looking for a way  
to get involved?

Are you artistic and creative?

## Then we need you to design the 2018 Campvention Royalty Contest T-Shirt

This is the shirt that the contestants and outgoing court will wear during the Royalty Contest opening number and for the Poise and Confidence (essay) portion. Our theme for 2018 is "Where Our Country Began." T-shirt designs should convey the theme and be simple as T-shirts will only be printed in a single col-

or. Send your designs to Becca Coniglio at [beccaconiglio@yahoo.com](mailto:beccaconiglio@yahoo.com) with 2018 Royalty Contest T-shirt Design in the Subject line. The winner will be announced in the January edition of *Camping Today*.



## Campvention 2018

### Site Decorating Contest



Doswell, VA is the site of our 2018 campvention. It is also the home of the racehorse Secretariat. Geneseo Campground sponsors

a site decorating contest for campvention. This year we are going to have you bring horses to decorate your sites. The judging categories will be most colorful, largest, most realistic and people's choice. Put your thinking caps on, get those creative juices flowing and decorate the campvention with some great horses!

## Hospitalities Info



Well, Campvention 2017 is in the history books, but we are eagerly looking forward to the Southeast Region hosting in 2018. Didn't we have a great time at the hospitalities in Ohio? They are such a great opportunity to meet new friends and exchange ideas. We are hoping to have many scheduled in VA. If your state, province, or chapter wish to host a hospitality, please let us know. Phone number is 515-520-7958. Email is [lanelleishmael@yahoo.com](mailto:lanelleishmael@yahoo.com) or you can write for a form, 315 Audubon Circle, Belvedere, SC 29841. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Leon and LaNelle Ishmael, Hospitality Chairs



## FCRV Quilt & Paintings Raffle

Our FCRV National Historian Shirley MacKenzie has made a quilt incorporating past Campvention patches and obtained three paintings all of which are part of a year-long raffle. Ticket sales began at Campvention 2017 in Lima. The proceeds will be used to convert the organization's historical photos to DVDs. Watch for more detailed info in the December or January Camping Today.



## Guinea, Virginia Remembered

By Barb Turner, Publicity Chair

Campvention 1981 in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania led us to Guinea, Virginia as we toured following that campvention. Guinea is less than 30 miles from the Campvention 2018 site. I thought I would share our visit there many years ago as a result of our camping family gathering in Bloomsburg.

Guinea was the site of a Civil War era railroad station on the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad known as Guiney's Station. (Guinea is the modern-day spelling of Guiney, which is an old Caroline County family.) Guinea found its place in history as a "bustling supply base during the winter of 1862-1863. All Confederate supplies came into the station and then dispersed to the camps of the Army of Northern Virginia. All soldiers coming or going from General Robert E. Lee's army passed through Guinea Station. Since the army was not camped in an agriculturally productive area, Lee's army was dependent upon the railroad to bring food to Guinea Station. Therefore, a key part of General Joseph Hooker's plan for the Battle of Chancellorsville directed the cavalry to sever the railroad south of Guinea Station, a task they successfully accomplished. Confederate sick and wounded at Chancellorsville needing hospitalization came to the station unable to be transferred further south until the railroad tracks were repaired on May 4."

The connection for us and the reason for our visit in 1981 was Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson, a graduate of the United States Military Academy of West Point and whose sentiments led him to service with the Confederate States of America where he rose to the rank of general. Most know the reason for the designation 'Stonewall' as a result of his leadership at the first Battle at Manassas. "General Bernard E. Bee proclaimed 'There is Jackson standing like a stone wall,' and a legend as well as a nickname was born." Our 12-year old son was very interested in history, especially the Civil War, and especially Stonewall Jackson. (His first guinea pig was named Stonewall!) A visit to the Stonewall Jackson Shrine was a 'must-see' on his list on our trip.

The Stonewall Jackson Shrine is part of the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park (U.S. National Park). Why? How did this happen?



***Bed where Jackson died***

On May 2, 1863 Stonewall Jackson was mistakenly shot by his own men on the front lines of the Battle of Chancellorsville. He was moved to a field hospital. General Robert E. Lee ordered that General Jackson be taken from the field hospital to a safer location at Guinea's Station. "Lee decided that his indispensable and most capable subordinate should recuperate in a safe place well behind friendly lines. He selected this area, Guinea Station, as the best location for Jackson because of its proximity to the railroad to Richmond and its familiarity to the wounded general."

Jackson was transported 27 miles to the plantation office on Fairfield, the 740-acre plantation of Thomas C. Chandler. "When Jackson's ambulance arrived, although they were offered the use of the Chandler house, Jackson's doctor and staff officers chose the quiet and private outbuilding as the best place for Jackson to rest after his long ambulance ride. If all went well, the general would soon board a train at Guinea Station and resume his trip to Richmond and the medical expertise available there."



***The blanket at the foot of the bed covered Jackson***

As we know, all did not go well. Mrs. Jackson and their baby daughter arrived on May 7<sup>th</sup>. She spent the next three days at his side. It seems the attending physicians were so concerned about his wounds that they failed to notice that he was showing symptoms of pneumonia. "Despite the efforts of pneumonia specialists, nothing seemed to bring relief to the General. Jackson observed, 'I see from the number of physicians that you think my condition dangerous, but I thank God, if it is His will, that I am ready to go. On Sunday, May 10, 1863, the doctors lost all hope of Jackson's recovery, and the General was notified of his condition. But as Jackson grew physically weaker, he remained spiritually strong. 'It is the Lord's Day; my wish is fulfilled,' said Jackson. 'I have always desired to die on Sunday.' Jackson realized that desire at 3:15 p.m. with Dr. McGuire carefully noting Jackson's last words:



***Where Dr. McGuire rested next to Jackson's bed***

'A few moments before he died he cried out in his delirium, 'Order A.P. Hill to prepare for action! Pass the infantry to the front rapidly! Tell Major Hawks' -- then stopped, leaving the sentence unfinished. Presently a smile of ineffable sweetness spread itself over his pale face, and he said quietly, and with an expression, as if of relief, 'Let us cross over the river, and rest under the shade of the trees.'"

Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire had performed the surgery on Jackson in the field hospital where he amputated Jackson's twice wounded left arm and removed a ball from the general's right hand. Jackson's chaplain, B. Tucker Lacy, had a brother who owned a house near the hospital. He took Jackson's severed left arm to his brother's family cemetery for burial. Lacy held devotions with Jackson the first two days he spent at Guinea Station. He returned to duty where he requested General Lee to send another doctor to relieve the weary McGuire, who tried to provide care round-the-clock. At this time, General Lee is said to have said, "He has lost his left arm, but I have lost my right arm."

Stonewall Jackson's remains were placed on a one-car train at Guinea Station on the morning of Monday, May 11, 1863 for transport to Richmond. He was buried in Lexington, Virginia.

Thirty-six years ago our son savored this story. He was in awe of standing in the room, next to the bed where Stonewall Jackson died. History came alive for him that day.

We had spent most of the day there due to a problem with our Hi-Lo travel trailer that



***The Chandlers added the clock on mantel to give the room a more homelike feeling for Jackson & table doctor used***

required the assistance of a welder. The ranger and his wife finally found a welder to help us.

To complete his day, our son helped the park ranger lower the American flag as the park closed. The ranger said he enjoyed our son's interest and his help with the flag and that he could just keep him there. I'm sure our son would have loved that. But, we had more things to see, and the trailer was fixed. It was a long day, but what memories we have because of attending our Campvention 1981 gathering and touring afterwards. As you look forward to Campvention 2018, we hope you will experience the Stonewall Jackson Shrine at Guinea Station, Virginia and add memories to your memory bank.



*Fairfield Plantation office*

## Director's Desk



### Reporting from Region 4

Hello, we are David and Linda Hennie, Regional Directors for Great Lakes Region 4. The Great Lakes Region covers, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin consisting of 571 families.

Our region hosted the 2017 International Campvention in Lima Ohio at the Allen County Fairgrounds, where we invited all to "Hop Aboard the FCRV Train" and arrive at Destination Great Lakes Region. The FCRV Train took us back to a time when National Campventions were held in County Fairgrounds and attending members were encouraged to visit various area attractions.

Even though the weather didn't always cooperate, we had our share of rain and tornado warnings, the Steering Committee and Teams Leaders were instrumental in assuring that campvention attendees had a great time and were aware of all events, seminars, hospitalities and entertainment offered throughout the week. Many thanks to Team 1 Leaders, Cindy James and Sharon Robinson; Team 2 Leader Kip Cushing; Team 3 Leaders, Connie Black and Jeff Robinson; Team 4 Leaders, John English and Donna Powell; Team 5 Leaders, Linda English and Doug Black and the Steering Committee leaders, Marilyn Rausch, Jan Cushing, Delbert Powell, Russ and Ruthann Simon, Paul Jones, Barb Turner and Cindy and Dennis James. The Campvention Co-Chairs, Larry and Vickie Roop, were with us every step of

the way offering their expertise in serving as Chairs for 2 previous campventions. The Campvention was successful because of all of these persons, the committee chairman and all workers and volunteers that served within the teams.

A change in the Teen King and Queen pageant and Teen Ball was introduced at the 2017 Campvention that created a one-day King and Queen event. This allowed the judges a shorter commitment of time, yet assuring that the topic and focus of previous King and Queen pageants were not omitted. The new 2017 International Teen King Peter Kuburski and Teen Queen Beth O'Neal were crowned on stage and then quickly paraded to the Teen Center where everyone was invited to a hospitality by the Teens and the Ball. The new practice seemed agreeable with the Teens and the pageant and hopefully will become the procedure used at Campvention.

In addition to the fun and friendship at National Campvention, the Executive Board met to focus on issues before the Family Campers and RVers. Camping Today, the National news periodical, was converted to an on-line publication only, as a cost-effective measure while providing monthly information to the membership. Members who do not have access to email were informed that they could receive the publication in hard copy by contacting the National Office through their State Director. However, the number of requests were so numerous that it has been necessary to pass along the cost of publishing and mailing the hard copy to members requesting it. The monthly subscription fee is \$20/US or \$25/CDN per year which will begin with the January 2018 issue. To order your hard copy of Camping Today please look for and submit the subscription form in this issue.

Since the 2017 International Campvention in Lima, States in the Great Lakes Region have enjoyed many activities. Illinois State Director Connie Black



reports that their Fall State Campout was held at Geneseo Campground where they celebrated Illinois members' accomplishments at National. Illinois Teen Queen Beth O'Neal was crowned Miss FCRV 2017 and the Alf Campers of Illinois was named FCRV Chapter of the Year. Additionally, all four of the organizations that were submitted by Illinois received grants from the FCRV's National Wildlife Fund.

Indiana newsletter reported that their members will take part in a conservation project at the Jennings County Fairground the first weekend in October. First the Indiana Retirees will meet during the week at the fairgrounds, joined by other members for the weekend Fall Invitational Campout, and all will participate in the mowing and cleaning at the fairgrounds.

The MSA Fall Statewide was held in Gladwin Michigan celebrated Michigan Teen King Peter Kurburski being crowned FCRV Teen King 2017 at National Campvention. Michigan also acknowledged John Kurburski and Elizabeth Kurburski as recipients of a FCRV National Scholarship.

Ohio's scholarship program, Save Earth's Resources Value Ecology (SERVE) reported a very successful fundraiser at the Swiss Festival in Sugar Creek which added funds to the scholarship program for Ohio's members.

Wisconsin will be hosting the 2018 Great Lakes Regional Campout at Brown County Fairgrounds in DePere on August 1-5, 2018. Wisconsin members invite all FCRV members to join us for the Regional which is just south of Green Bay Wisconsin.

The Great Lakes Region is working diligently to grow Family Campers and RVers. Until we meet around the campfire again, Safe Travels.



Elva Forte (c) with son, Wayne and daughters and their significant others at a great grandson's wedding. Elva, now 94, with her late husband, Anthony was an early organizer of NCHA chapters in New York City

and active lifelong members. F.B. photo. Elva's email is empery @aol.com.



Family celebrated Bob & Lou Royal's 60th Anniversary and Lou's 79th birthday, at Halloween camping at Diamond Lake. They served kettle corn to fellow campers. (FB photos)



## **Roughrider FCRV Club Member Carrol Burchinal Receives Honorary Club Membership**

By Jeanne Selby



(North Dakota) Roughrider FCRV Club Field Director Jim Paul presented long-time Roughrider Member Carrol Burchinal with a framed certificate commemorating honorary Chapter membership at a June 24 breakfast. Pictured with Burchinal are (left to right) Roughrider Club Presidents Arlyce and Mike Malarkey, Burchinal, Field Directors Jim and Priscilla Paul, and Club Secretary Marv and Gerri Huschka.

Burchinal and his late wife, Darlene, have been members of NCHA/FCRV clubs in Kansas and North Dakota since July 1967. Burchinal also holds lifetime membership in the National FCRV organization.

The Burchinals have provided many years of

skilled leadership, in both elected and appointed positions, to their NCHA/FCRV clubs, region, state and at the National level.

The Burchinals have served as Club Presidents to their Kansas club, as well as the Roughriders in North Dakota.

While Darlene served two two-year terms as National Corresponding Secretary, Carrol served as Regional Director. When Carrol was elected to serve a two-year term as 2nd Vice President on the National Board of Trustees, Darlene served as Region 3 Regional Director.

Following his service as 2nd Vice President, Carrol was elected to two two-year terms as 1st Vice President of the National FCRV organization. Asked to campaign for the position of National President in 1996, Carrol declined because of health concerns.

Carrol most recently served a number of years as a member of the National FCRV Scholarship Committee.

The Burchinals have received numerous citations, plaques and recognitions throughout the years, including the FCRV plaque, the organization's highest award (honoring the members' outstanding contributions to local, state, regional and national NCHA/FCRV, as well as community involvement), the National Director's Award during Carrol's 1987-88 term, and a Distinguished Service Award for their 26 years of volunteer service on the National Executive Board and the Board of Trustees.

## Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight

By Linda Stiegler

On Saturday, September 23, 2017 there were 116 total passengers (50 Veterans, 50 escorts and 16 Support Personnel) going to Washington DC to honor these WWII Veterans. These veterans have never seen the monuments that are in their honor. It was a chance of a lifetime for them. John Stiegler, was an escort for a 92 year old WWII Navy Veteran Eugene Mucha. They got along well as both being in the Navy. Their day started out at 6:15am when the buses picked them up at one of our Veterans Post. They were given a Patriot Guard and police



escort to Buffalo International Airport to be greeted by many people (Boy Scout troops, a band playing patriotic music, ROTC students) and it just gave you the goosebumps if you could have seen their faces as they did not expect this greeting.

They departed Buffalo at 8:25am and arrived in Baltimore at 9:45am, with another amazing greeting by the military and people from everywhere. John's niece (Kim), her daughter (Jessica) and her 4 month old son (Vinny) met them too as they live in Baltimore. John was excited to see them and Eugene met them too. Off to Arlington where a family with 3 generations of military was chosen to lay the wreath. What an honor. They watched the changing of the guard ceremony then had lunch at Air Force Memorial. At 3pm they arrived at the Korean and Vietnam Memorial to tour on their own. The vets reminisced those days and there were some tears. People that were touring on their own came up to the vets and said to them "Thank you for your service" and it got too many of them. If it was not for them, we would not be here. At 5:30pm they had a sit down dinner, a talk about the day, then had "Mail Call", in which they received hundreds of letters from family and friends. Finally after a very long day, they departed Baltimore at 9:50pm and arrived home at 11pm to another wonderful crowd to greet them.

If you could have seen them being escorted by a local bagpipe band, again playing the Military songs, there was tears all around. The experience was amazing and John would do it again. He made a great friendship with Gene and talking to the other veterans and escorts.

This organization, Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight, takes the WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans at no cost to them. It is an honor for them, as this is probably the only way they will see these monuments that were meant for them. The next flight out is November 4<sup>th</sup> with another group of wonderful men and women going to Washington Thanks to all of our Veterans and their families.

If anyone is interested one of our local TV stations went to the journey and taped most of what was done. If you are on Facebook check out Channel News 4, WIVB Buffalo and watch the video or look at the pictures and video from Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight, you will cry. Thank you Tom Petrie, President of Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight, and your entire organization for a wonderful experience.



**If you do not  
have access  
to email...**

**CAMPING TODAY**

**WILL BE AVAILABLE IN HARD COPY  
BY SUBSCRIPTION ONLY**

paper.

This will be a black & white edition, printed, stapled,  
sealed and mailed from the national office using basic copy

It is available primarily for those who do not have access to email. The subscription fee of \$20/US or \$25/CDN pays for postage and materials used in preparing each copy. These prices and this service will begin in January 2018, and will be in effect until further notice. If your membership expires during your subscription period, and you choose not to renew your membership, your subscription to Camping Today will end at that time and there will be no refunds issued for the remaining months of the subscription.

***Subscriptions are available only to current members of FCRV, are on a calendar year basis, and will be renewable at the end of each year.***

If you wish to sign up for this service, please complete the form below and return it, with a check payable to "FCRV" at the address below. Please call the office at (716) 668-6242 with any questions you might have, or to make arrangements to pay by credit card.

Family Campers & RVers

4804 Transit Road Building 2

Depew, NY 14043-4704



**PLEASE SIGN ME UP FOR A ONE YEAR PRINTED SUBSCRIPTION TO  
CAMPING TODAY**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP ID#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

For Office Use Only

Member ID verified: \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Date paid: \_\_\_\_\_

For year: \_\_\_\_\_



# Family Campers and RVers

## BALANCE SHEET

As of June 30, 2017

|  | TOTAL               |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                    |                     |
| Current Assets                                   |                     |
| Bank Accounts                                    |                     |
| 1007 Checking - Office                           | 1,800.65            |
| 1008 General Checkings 004836814107              | 14,829.89           |
| <b>Total Bank Accounts</b>                       | <b>\$16,630.54</b>  |
| Other Current Assets                             |                     |
| 1044 2017 FCRV Campvention Advance               | 2,500.00            |
| 1046 pre-paid liability insurance                | 11,971.52           |
| 1047 2018 CAMPVENTION ADVANCE                    | 6,000.00            |
| <b>Total Other Current Assets</b>                | <b>\$20,471.52</b>  |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>                      | <b>\$37,102.06</b>  |
| Other Assets                                     |                     |
| 1050 Inventory Merchandise                       | 4,626.00            |
| 1051 Inventory Insignia                          | 41,458.75           |
| 1055 Deposit - United Parcel                     | 400.00              |
| 1056 Deposit - Office Rent                       | 510.00              |
| 1057 Suspense - Exchange                         | 211.30              |
| 1060 Long Term Investments                       |                     |
| 1061 Edward Jones Investments (FMV)              |                     |
| 1062 Money Market                                | 2,935.91            |
| 1068 TVA Bond 6.235%                             | 112,032.00          |
| 1070 Federal Home Loan Bank                      | 60,347.50           |
| 1076 Franklin Income Fund A                      | 118,095.32          |
| 1078 Lord Abbett Bond                            | 132,712.25          |
| <b>Total 1061 Edward Jones Investments (FMV)</b> | <b>426,122.98</b>   |
| <b>Total 1060 Long Term Investments</b>          | <b>426,122.98</b>   |
| <b>Total Other Assets</b>                        | <b>\$473,329.03</b> |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                              | <b>\$510,431.09</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>                    |                     |
| Liabilities                                      |                     |
| Current Liabilities                              |                     |
| Other Current Liabilities                        |                     |
| 1801 Life Memberships                            |                     |
| 1804 Reserve Life Membership                     | 185,886.68          |
| 1809 Life Membership Amortization                | -96,000.00          |
| <b>Total 1801 Life Memberships</b>               | <b>89,886.68</b>    |
| 1803 Reserve Life Installments                   | 1,446.25            |
| 1805 Reserve Membership Promo ST/PR              | 6,608.44            |
| 1815 Reserve-Historian Project                   | 136.00              |
| Payroll Liabilities                              |                     |
| disability                                       | 184.75              |

Cash Basis Tuesday, October 3, 2017 06:50 AM GMT-7

|  | TOTAL               |
|--|---------------------|
| Federal Taxes (941/944)                | 957.68              |
| NYS Employment Taxes                   | 171.83              |
| NYS Income Tax                         | 510.61              |
| <b>Total Payroll Liabilities</b>       | <b>1,824.87</b>     |
| <b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b> | <b>\$99,902.24</b>  |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>       | <b>\$99,902.24</b>  |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>               | <b>\$99,902.24</b>  |
| Equity                                 |                     |
| 1900 Fund Balance                      | 320,576.53          |
| 1901 Unrealized Gain/Loss Investment   | 94,699.52           |
| 3900 Retained Earnings                 | -10,172.14          |
| Net Income                             | 5,424.94            |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                    | <b>\$410,528.85</b> |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>    | <b>\$510,431.09</b> |

NCHA SCHOLARSHIP, INC.  
d.ba. FCRV SCHOLARSHIP, INC  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2016 TO JUNE 30, 2017

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| ASSETS AT JULY 1, 2016 (HELD AT EDWARD JONES)     |                          |
| MONEY MARKET                                      | 268.43                   |
| EXCHANGE TRADED & CLOSED END FUNDS                | 150,784.95               |
| MUTUAL FUNDS                                      | 101,478.39               |
|   | <u>252,531.77</u>        |
| PLUS RECEIPTS - JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017      |                          |
| CONTRIBUTIONS                                     | 2,499.24                 |
| INTEREST/DIVIDENDS                                | 1,981.47                 |
|   | <u>4,480.71</u>          |
| LESS DISBURSEMENTS - JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017 |                          |
| ADVISORY SOLUTIONS FEES                           | (3,265.37)               |
| SCHOLARSHIPS                                      | (11,800.00)              |
| SCHOLARSHIP FEES                                  | (2,240.00)               |
|   | <u>(17,305.37)</u>       |
| CHANGE IN VALUE                                   | 26,735.99                |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS JUNE30, 2017</b>                  | <b><u>266,443.10</u></b> |
| ASSETS AT JUNE 30, 2017 (HELD AT EDWARD JONES)    |                          |
| CASH  | 60.00                    |
| MONEY MARKET                                      | 581.93                   |
| EXCHANGE TRADED & CLOSED END FUNDS                | 159,183.48               |
| MUTUAL FUNDS                                      | 106,617.69               |
|   | <u>266,443.10</u>        |

# FCRV Activities

## FCRV Member, Guy Dean, from South Carolina on "You Tube"



Guy states, "I entertained at our Palmetto Retiree August Rally, and sang the songs"

The two songs that I performed during entertainment have been "uploaded" to "You Tube". If you would like to view use the following steps:

1. In your Browser" Search Bar", type--- www.youtube.com This will take you to the You Tube Program
2. In the You Tube" Search Bar", type, "Guy F Dean Jr - The Last Thing On My Mind

In the You Tube" Search Bar", type, "Guy F Dean - "Chime Bells" (Note that the Jr was left out) you don't need to use the quote marks.

To get the music started you must click on the song screen, then click the right facing arrow at the bottom left corner of the picture. It's not set up perfect but it will do for now.

## Dakota Zoo Receives National FCRV Wildlife Refuge Grant

By Jeanne Selby

Dakota Zoo, in Bismarck, ND, recently received a \$500 national Family Campers & RVers (FCRV) wildlife refuge grant.

According to Zoo Director Terry Lincoln, the \$500 award will provide mesh shade cloth to a newly-constructed flight pen used to house recovering injured or orphaned raptors during their rehabilitation at the Zoo.

Submitted by State FCRV Director JeAnne Selby, Bismarck, on behalf of the Dakota Zoo, the grant request sought national FCRV wildlife funds for the Zoo's raptor rehabilitation program.

The FCRV Wildlife Refuge program offers financial grants to governmental and private organizations

to assist them in wildlife conservation projects. The grant requests must be submitted to the national FCRV Wildlife Refuge directors by an FCRV member and be accompanied by a letter of concurrence from an agency/organization.



**Dakota Zoo Director Terry Lincoln introduces "Goldie," a blind adult golden eagle rescued in 2011 that has become one of the Zoo's permanent residents, to ND/SD State FCRV Director JeAnne Selby**

## Roaming Buffalo of North Dakota Scrapbook Winner

This year's Campvention marked the end of one of FCRV's long running programs. Under the umbrella of Historians, Shirley and Don MacKenzie's activity was the annual Chapter and State/Province Scrapbook contest. Groups would display their vests, pictures, awards, and memorabilia. Over the years, interest began to fade and history was preserved in other ways so the contest was discontinued. In 2017 there was only one entry and ironically it was by



**Deb Kapp of Jamestown, ND with Shirley MacKenzie**

the Roaming Buffalos Chapter of North Dakota who submitted the very first winning entry in the Chapter Scrap Book Contest many years ago.

The Photobook Contest has also been discontinued.



**Roaming Buffalos in CV Parade**



## Michigan Halloween Campout



Paul Jones took 3rd place with his costume at the Halloween Campout.

## Hoosier Retirees Rally



The Hoosier Retirees 2017 Rally involved visiting, eating, playing bingo, eating, touring an Herb Farm, and, of course, eating!

## Indiana Conservation Project



The Indiana Family Campers and RVers participated in a conservation project on Friday, October 6 as a kick-off to the Fall Invitational. We mowed, weed-eated, weeded and trimmed the fairgrounds where the Invitational was being held.



## Nick Kyte Awarded Scholarship



Nicolas Kyte and his family say thanks to the Ontario Provincial Association for the scholarship awarded to him. Nick was FCRV's 2016 Teen King.



# D.A.S.A.T.

By Joe Boswell  
National D.A.S.A.T. Director

## Up Dating Your Insurance

Now is the time to sit down with your insurance adjuster and review your current homeowner's insurance policy. This should be done about every 3 to 5 years especially as the trends and value of items within your home and the house value itself fluctuate. Consider updating your insurance before the disaster arrives is much better than trying to update the insurance after the disaster. When disaster strikes many are under the total assumption that the insurance they



purchased some time ago will cover the major costs of rebuilding at today's inflation rate. Wrong! Consider this, will the total amount of insurance you have completely cover the replacement cost of your home and its contents. Realistically, the response to this question is NO. Most assume that the coverage they have will cover the loss-only to find out that once the disaster strikes they are underinsured. The insurance industry is tricky this way. What you think you have in reality you do not have.

For example: A home owner has insurance on their home. It is totally destroyed by a tornado. The value of the house appraised at the time of the tornado is \$500,000 but according to the insurance policy that was never updated the total payout is only \$300,000. Ouch, that is \$200,000 difference. This is for the structure of the house only; it does not cover the contents. Ok, you were a lover of precious antiques, they too are now lost. According to the insurance policy you purchased it does not cover the contents of the home. Ouch again. All of this could have been avoided if only you had up-dated your insurance policy and included an additional underwriter's policy for the contents. Finding out this very costly mistake could have been avoided if you had only updated the policy and included the addendum to cover the contest of the home as well.

These are some things one does not think about until it is too late. Disaster strikes and now you find yourself seeking additional insurance and guidance as to what to do next. In the example given, taking the time before it is too late can make a world of different in the long run. Also consider this do you live in an area that is susceptible to flooding. This would involve a bit more research on your part in order to receive the proper amount of insurance to cover flooding as most basic insurance policies do not cover this issue at all. Buyer beware, just because you have homeowner's insurance does not mean you automatically have flood insurance. Check your policy and your local area for specific guidelines for this type of coverage.

Simply stated, take the time to speak to your insurance adjuster on a regular basis. This way you can keep your insurance policy updated. The more you know about what is written in within the pages of your insurance policy the better informed you have become. This eliminates questions and you know specifically what is covered and what is not in the case of a disaster. If and when the disaster strikes the stress and tribulation of the disaster will go a lot smoother.

As members of FCRV we all live in various part of the country. What may be a standard in one area may not be a standard in a different part of the county. For example; those who live in Texas, and Florida, who have experienced a hurricane, have a need for a different type of insurance verses someone who lives in Kansas where there are lots of tornados. Our weather is very unpredictable. Being prepared and having the right type of insurance can make a difference.

## North Carolina's Retiree King And Queen



*Bill & Penny Ramlow*

Bill and Penny Ramlow started their life together forty-eight years ago in South Florida. About ten years ago they moved to North Carolina. They have one daughter, one grandson, and a four-legged family member. Bill worked for the US Postal Service in Dade County for forty years. He began as a clerk, assistant station manager, station manager, and finally retired as an Address Management Analysis. Upon finishing college Penny worked as a billing clerk until the birth of their daughter. After their daughter started school she volunteered at the school and later became a teacher's aide and then a substitute teacher. She worked twenty-eight years for the Dade County School System.

Upon being invited to camp with the Thunderbolts in 1985 they became the chapter's secretary. Then in the following years were president, vice-president, and treasurer. They were also the chapter's DAT Director and SPC Director. When a fellow camper left to return home to Pennsylvania, they took over the job of field director and then District Six Director. In the years that followed they held the position of South Florida District Director when the District Five Director left. While holding this position they were awarded "Director of the Year." Other state positions they held were FSA Scholarship Director and Assistant State Director.

Attending their first Retiree Rally in 2007 they have not missed one since. They were asked to be the Retiree Registrar in 2008 and have held that position

since.

Bill and Penny have attended many National Campventions and have been on numerous committees. They were registrar for the Ladson, South Carolina Campvention and are the registrar for the 2018 Campvention in Doswell, Virginia.

Bill's hobbies are kayaking, reading, making new friends, fishing, helping people, talking, and playing with and walking their dog. Penny's interests are trying new recipes, working on the computer, planning their trips, and doing crafts.

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## Solitude 373FB 5<sup>th</sup> Wheel

by [Rick Kessler](#) Courtesy of RV business



First introduced at America's Largest RV Show in Hershey, Pa., and later at the Elkhart RV Open House, Grand Design Recreation Vehicle Co.'s Solitude 373FB fifth-wheel features a massive front bath and bedroom as well as an innovative L-shaped exterior kitchen option.

The 41-foot long coach comes in at less than 14,000 pounds (dry weight) with an MSRP in the low- to mid-\$90,000 range, depending on options.

Product Manager Rob Groover said the fifth-wheel's front bath includes a true walk-in closet and washer/dryer hookup that doesn't impede on the wardrobe space, while the bedroom offers a 70-by-80 walk-around king bed in a slideout and hidden storage in the dresser. The main living area features a half-bath, island kitchen and a living room made spacious with opposing slides.

"Historically front baths have been very hit or miss. There's always a weakness in that the living room is either constrained, the bedrooms are terrible, or they're just super tight. People have tended to focus on the

bathroom, and everything else comes second," Groover told RVBUSINESS.com. "So with this one, we really wanted to make the living room as open and spacious as possible, that's why we have windows all the way around. We blew out the overhead cabinets and put massive windows on the campsite side, versus on the other side, so you're looking at your patio instead of your neighbor's."



The optional L-shaped outdoor kitchen, which was developed in partnership with MORryde, is available on six of Solitude's nine floorplans. The system slides out from the basement storage, and then unfolds into a gal-

ley complete with a hot-and-cold plumbed sink, grill cooktop and plenty of counter space.

“We wanted to make it very intuitive and something that customers can easily set up under two minutes intact,” Groover said. “The nice thing about it is that it has hot and cold running water. It’s plumbed to your gray water tank so there’s no additional or auxiliary tanks or anything like that to worry about it, and there’s no switch to turn the pump on or off.”

## RV Your Way to a Rocket Launch

Americans’ love affair with the open road is rivaled by our fascination with outer space. Why not combine the two?

Space Florida, the state-run organization tasked with promoting space tourism in the Sunshine State, encourages folks to rent an RV (or gas up the ones they own) and head to Florida’s Space Coast to witness a rocket launch at The Kennedy Space Center Launch Complex. Along the way, they can enjoy a bounty of space-themed activities available in the region – [learn more about these space-themed activities here](#).



*Rocket Garden*

That’s right — rocket launches. They happen at Kennedy Space Center a couple of times a month. While these launches may not carry people or primates, they deliver all the awe and grandeur of the lift-offs back in the time of the 1960s Space Race. These days, rockets restock space stations, drop off satellites, perform top-secret military missions and other otherworldly jobs. For instance, in November SpaceX will launch the first Falcon Heavy Demo Flight, the most powerful rocket since Apollo’s Saturn V. [Click here for a full launch schedule](#).

RV’ers can enjoy the community of space enthusiasts that congregate for launches — the type of shared experience not as common in hotels. The Space Coast has an array of RV parks [dotted throughout](#) its geo-

graphic area. All of them are within convenient distance of the many choice [launch-viewing sites](#) in the destination. In fact, a few of the RV parks are viewing sites in and of themselves.

You’ve got your Grand Canyon, your Mount Rushmore, your Yellowstone and its Old Faithful, your Niagara Falls. RV enthusiasts — or RV newbies — should add Florida’s Space Coast and its rocket launches to the list.

And while they’re it, we encourage them to check out [wearegofl.com](#), where they can become a “Vacationaut,” and join a fellowship of space enthusiasts.



## 5 Upgrades Every Fulltimer Should Consider

By Chelsea Barron

Some of the best ways to make RV living comfortable involve small upgrades to your rig. Even though you may not be looking to do tons of work on your RV, these 5 upgrades will be worth your time.

Read more [HERE](#).

## Troubleshooting Your RV Tank Sensors

As park hosts , we get asked about RV sensors a lot. The sensors in question are usually associated with the black and grey tanks. These sensors have a tendency to give false readings, indicating a full or partially full tank even after one has been completely emptied.

Read more [HERE](#).







## ON THE TRAIL OF THE ELUSIVE BIGFOOT

### SEARCH FOR THE MYTHICAL BEAST AT THESE THREE OHIO STATE PARKS

By Anietra Hamper

Bigfoot. Is there a mythical creature with a stronger hold on the popular imagination than this ape-like beast? Whether the product of folklore, misidentification, or hoax, this large, hairy humanoid — also known as Sasquatch — continues to fascinate believers and attract countless “spotters” around the country.

One popular place for reported sightings is Ohio, which ranks in the top five states nationally. Many of those eyewitness accounts come from visitors and rangers at Ohio State Parks. In fact, three Ohio State Park Lodges are in the center of that activity, making them convenient home bases for Bigfoot enthusiasts who want to join in organized events and hikes or just head out on their own in search of the elusive creature.



### PUNDERSON STATE PARK

Punderson State Park in rural northeast Ohio has a number of documented sightings. In the heart of the woods is [Punderson Manor State Park Lodge](#) with homey rooms, cabins, and old manor-style lodging

available for those on the hunt for Sasquatch in the region.

### MOHICAN STATE PARK

Mohican State Park in Central Ohio has seen an increase in Bigfoot sightings since 2010, particularly in the woods near Big Lyons Falls. There are occasional Bigfoot hikes that draw more than 500 people. Nearby [Mohican State Park Lodge](#) is centrally located among the spots of documented sightings. The lodge provides easy access to hiking trails that run throughout the 1,000-acre state park.

### SALT FORK STATE PARK

Perhaps the most noted Bigfoot location in Ohio is in the dense forest cover in Ohio’s largest state park at Salt Fork. Located in Southeastern Ohio, [Salt Fork State Park Lodge](#) is ground zero for Bigfoot enthusiasts. One reason for the attention is that Sasquatch has long been rumored to live in Salt Fork State Park. There have been more than 30 documented sightings since the 1970s.

The park’s rolling landscape, plush with hickory and oak trees that surround a nearly 3,000-acre lake, is the backdrop for the annual [Ohio Bigfoot Conference](#), held in May each year. It is the world’s longest running Bigfoot conference attracting more than 3,000 participants from as far away as Australia. The Bigfoot enthusiasts and researchers who attend share stories, compare scientific discoveries — and, of course, search for the hairy beast.

Salt Fork State Park Lodge is the home base for those who want to stay in the middle of the wooded grounds. Each lodge room has a patio or balcony for a constant view of the woods. Cabins are also located on site.

[Creature Weekend](#), scheduled for Oct. 20-22 in 2017, is another themed event at the lodge that Bigfoot hunters attend. It centers on cryptozoology, which is the study of hidden animals, including Sasquatch.

In addition, Salt Fork hosts other opportunities throughout the year focused on the legend that makes this region famous. Join in a [Bigfoot Adventure Weekend](#), a three-night campout with workshops, demonstrations, and hikes, or take a monthly [Bigfoot Night Hike](#) in the park with Bigfoot experts who are familiar with the landscape and reported sightings.

To tackle your own search during your stay, pick up a Bigfoot Hikes map from the lodge’s front desk, and follow the trails where there are documented sightings.

ings. Take a hike on the Bigfoot Ridge, Morgan's Knob, or the Buckeye Trail, which have some of the most notable Sasquatch activity.

Whether you believe or not, the Legend of Bigfoot is alive in Ohio, allowing you to be a part of the phenomenon at whatever level you choose. And, you never know, you just might spot the mysterious beast yourself during your stay.

## HOW TO EXPLORE

Salt Fork, Mohican, and Punderson Manor are part of the five lakeside lodges of the Ohio State Parks, which offer a variety of accommodation types, ranging from standard and bunk/loft rooms to two- and four-bedroom cabins. Besides hiking, they offer indoor/outdoor pools, golf, boating, full-service dining, and more. For more information and reservations, visit [OhioStateParkLodges.com](http://OhioStateParkLodges.com) or call 800-282-7275.

For more travel experiences to Beautiful Places on Earth™ available from Xanterra Parks & Resorts and its affiliated properties, visit [xanterra.com/explore](http://xanterra.com/explore)

# Products

## The Better Bungee

Are cheap bungee cords letting you down? They break, they fall apart and they start to smell after a while. YUCK!



The Better Bungee is a Pennsylvania-based company that came up with better materials to create safer, stronger bungee cords, straps and rope that can be used and counted on to perform under extreme weather conditions.

Our team has created a unique one of a kind product line that will withstand all you can throw at it! Extreme temperature variations, UV, water, diesel fuel, oil, gasoline and much more! They are safer and stronger for any industrial or leisure application.

The best bungee cord. These nylon ends don't

scratch or gouge. Safely stretches up to 2x original length. Available in Black, Blue, Military Green, Orange, Red, Safety Green, White, and Yellow.

Made in the USA! Available on our [website](http://www.aipower.com) and at [Grainger](http://Grainger.com).

## A-iPOWER INTRODUCES THE AP1000 ENERGY CUBE

ONTARIO, Calif. – A-iPower, a manufacturer of portable generators, pressure washers, water pumps, and gasoline engines, is expanding its generator line with the introduction of the AP1000 Energy Cube.

Powered by a 63cc, two-stroke engine the AP1000 outputs 800 running watts and 1,000 starting watts, and runs for 8.5 hours at 50 percent load. This rugged little machine is both EPA and CARB compliant and is safe to use in any national park with its spark arrestor. It's also easy for any one person to transport.

The control panel features an engine On/Off switch, easy-to-use choke/throttle lever, two 120V household receptacles, a single 12VDC /8.3A USB-ready multi-purpose outlet and circuit reset buttons.

Other features engineered for ease of use include an informative and easy to understand control panel for user-friendly access, push-to-reset circuit breakers for overload protection and near effortless recoil starting. An ergonomically-designed handle provides easy transportation and as an added bonus – being a 2 stroke generator– its engine never requires an oil change.

A-iPower even includes the first bottle of oil with the Energy Cube and mixing the 50:1 oil/gas ratio is easy – 2.6 oz. of oil to one gallon of gas.

The Energy Cube is perfect for power tools, light-duty home needs, small appliances and recreational use, especially RVing.

For more product information and where to buy, consumers can visit [www.aipower.com](http://www.aipower.com).

### About A-iPower

A-iPower offers portable generators, pressure washers, water pumps, and gasoline engines providing innovative, cost-effective solutions for power needs at home, at the job site, and on the weekend. From our headquarters in Ontario, California, the A-iPower team is dedicated to providing excellent cus-



tomer service and ideal product solutions for the wide range and differing needs of consumer and commercial power generation equipment.

For more information, phone 626-888-3598 or visit [www.a-ipower.com](http://www.a-ipower.com).

## Rumpl Original Puffy Blanket Now In Wine Red

A New, Warm Shade Of Your Favorite Blanket Just In Time For Fall



The classic Rumpl blanket in a new color, perfect for fall and the upcoming holiday season. Water resistant, dirt resistant and packed with 3D Hollow Fiber Synthetic Insulation, this versatile blanket is exactly what your adventure needs.

### Original Puffy Blanket

**ket:** Designed to provide optimal warmth in any environment. The Puffy Blanket is made with the same technical materials found in premium sleeping bags and insulated puffy jackets. Utilizing a weather-resistant 20D ripstop nylon shell with DWR treatment, the blanket resists water, dirt, odor, pet hair, and other debris. The Puffy fits easily in an included stuff sack for quick storage or taking on the go.



**MSRP: \$99.00 x Images**

### SPECS

- 20D Ripstop Nylon with DWR with 3D Hollow Fiber Synthetic Insulation
- Weight - Throw 2.1lbs, 1-Person 3.3lbs, 2-Person 4.8lbs.

Stuff sack included



## Vibe Introduces New Tandem Kayak Built for Comfort and Performance

*Vibe Yellowfin 130T Tandem Kayak Package equipped with two Hero frame seats, Journey paddles and adjustable foot braces for all-day comfort*

**Kennesaw, GA** – Vibe today launches the Yellowfin 130T, a new 13-foot sit-on-top tandem kayak that comfortably holds two adults—if you're willing to share your secret honey holes with anyone. The Vibe Yellowfin 130T Kayak Package, competitively priced under \$1000, is equipped with two Hero seats and two Vibe Journey paddles. The breathable-mesh seats



with sturdy metal frames can be placed in multiple seating positions including a solo paddling set-up, and the cockpit includes fully-adjustable foot braces. These features, along with a uniquely-designed hull that rides high in the water while providing great stability, result in an uncommonly comfortable paddling experience – while retaining the performance and maneuverability for which Vibe Kayaks are known.

“Our newest tandem boat was basically built by our customers,” said Josh Thomas, CEO and co-founder of Vibe. “We listened and then incorporated the input from current Vibe owners and our Pro Team to design the Yellowfin 130T. That guidance led us to build a ridiculously comfortable, capable boat that is perfect for both family recreation or serious kayak fishing.”

### Overview:

The new Vibe Yellowfin 130T is 13 feet long, 35 inches wide and has a load capacity of 500 pounds. It is built using a single piece of rotomolded-polyethylene, and the cockpit can be configured to hold two adults and a small child or a single adult paddling in the center position. The Vibe Yellowfin 130T Tandem Kayak Package includes the Kayak, two Vibe Hero frame seats and two Vibe Journey paddles. The kayak is available in four colors: Blue



Lagoon, Sunset Camo, Moss Camo and Jam Berry.

### Features:

- **Comfort and Convenience:** Two Vibe Hero seats, four easy-grip carrying handles, two built in cup holders, adjustable foot braces and rudder-ready construction (rudder parts and rigging are also available from Vibe).
- **Gear Mounting:** Two capped flush-mount rod holders, two side bungee paddle parks, two built-in accessory mounts and four mounting points for optional gear tracks.
- **Cargo:** Two, 9" sealed hatches with bag inserts, rear tankwell with adjustable bungee, bow cargo bungee system and four tackle tray holders (two on either side of each seat).

**Construction:** rotomolded as a single piece of polyethylene, with 12 scupper holes (plugs included). The Vibe Yellowfin 130T Tandem Kayak Package is available online from Vibe now for \$999.99, and will be available at select Vibe dealers on Monday, October 2, 2017. If you would like to learn more about the Vibe Yellowfin 130T, please visit [www.vibekayaks.com](http://www.vibekayaks.com)

## Farewells

### Doug and Mickey Acosta



A well known Louisiana couple, Mickey and Doug Acosta, married for 79 years have passed away within 4 months of each other. Mickey, 97, 6-24-17 and Doug, 98, 10-22-17. They were from Matthew, Louisiana and were very active in FCRV since 1985, especially Retirees, having helped and participated in many rallies. They will be missed.

**Barbara Olson**, 10-17, Minnesota, Winter Texan Chapter

**Sarah Carberry**, 10-22-17, James Creek, Pennsylvania. State Assn. Treasurer, longtime active member.

### FINANCIAL REPORT NCHA WILDLIFE REFUGE, INC. d.b.a. FCRV WILDLIFE REUGE INC. JULY 1, 2016 TO JUNE 30, 2017

#### ASSETS AT JULY 1, 2016

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| MONEY MARKET FUND              | 88.63     |
| EXCHANGE TRADED & CLOSED FUNDS | 49,823.22 |
| MUTUAL FUNDS                   | 32,771.39 |

82683.24

#### PLUS RECEIPTS - JULY 1, 2016 TO JUNE 30, 2017

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| CONTRIBUTIONS        | 1,222.00 |
| INTEREST & DIVIDENDS | 574.18   |
|                      | 1,796.18 |

#### LESS DISBURSEMENTS - JULY 1, 2016 TO JUNE 30, 2017

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| GRANTS                  | (5,000.00) |
| ADVISORY SOLUTIONS FEES | (1,065.82) |
|                         | (6,065.82) |

CHANGE IN VALUE - JULY 1, 2016 TO JUNE 30, 2017 8,843.20

TOTAL ASSETS AT JUNE 30, 2017 87,256.80

#### ASSETS HELD AT EDWARD JONES-JUNE 30, 2017

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| MONEY MARKET FUND              | 191.85    |
| EXCHANGE TRADED & CLOSED FUNDS | 52,491.12 |
| MUTUAL FUNDS                   | 34,573.83 |

ASSETS AT JUNE 30, 2017

87,256.80



*Thank You*

*Veterans*

*For Your Service*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **NOVEMBER**

### **November 2 – 5, 2017 – Texas State Association Fall Campventure**

Oakdale Park 1019 NE Barnard Street, Glen Rose, Texas 76043. Camping fee is \$28.00 per night, payable by check or cash at the rally. Credit cards are not accepted. All sites have full hookups, 30 to 50 amps and most are pull -thru. This is a city park and is located downtown close to everything. We are currently working on the schedule of events, but if you would like to help in any way, please let us know. Ideas and suggestions would also be appreciated. This area of Texas has a lot of history, going back many centuries, as well as new discoveries. There are many boutiques, museums and restaurants to keep you entertained when not involved in activities being planned at the park. Please give Kathie Johnson a call at 713-898-3204 or email [kathiejohnson@suddenlink.net](mailto:kathiejohnson@suddenlink.net) to let us know to be looking for you. E-mail Kathie and request a pre-registration form

### **November 3-5, 2017 - Florida State Association Fall Rally**

Blueberry Hill RV Resort, Bushnell, FL. The camping fee will be \$30.00 per night. We are planning the usual games, a picnic type dinner on Friday, a catered meal on Saturday(\$), breakfast on Saturday and some unexpected fun. So let's all come out and have a good time. Please call the campground at (352) 793-4112 to make your reservation and send the form below along with \$10 to make your reservation with FSA. If you have any questions, please call Emma or Bob Moore at (863) 234-1173 or (863) 234-1153.

### **November 9 - 11, 2017 - FCRV Veterans Campout**

ABC Campground, Branson, MO. \$35 per night, full hookup, 50 amp., To register contact Ron Braley at [fcrv-veterans@outlook.com](mailto:fcrv-veterans@outlook.com)

### **November 19 - 25, 2017 - Kentucky Colonels Annual Thanksgiving Campout** (all FCRVers welcome).

Lake Cumberland State Park, Jamestown, KY. Do not make reservations through Reserve America.com. The park has blocked off an area on the back hill for our use (same as last year). Take an open space that is not pre-assigned and pay at the Country Store. Information - Mike Royal 270-903-5871 or Duane Keegan 630-487-8873.





**47<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL RETIREE RALLY**  
**NORTH FLORIDA FAIRGROUNDS**  
**441 PAUL RUSSELL ROAD, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301**  
**EARLY DAYS: MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> – MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>**  
**RALLY DAYS: MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> – MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**FAMILY CAMPERS AND RVERS**



LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST: \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE/OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/POSTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME OF OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ST/PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/POSTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

WHICH ARE YOU REGISTERING FOR? CAMPING: \_\_\_\_\_ CAMP PASS: \_\_\_\_\_ IS THIS YOUR FIRST RETIREE RALLY: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A VETERAN: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF VETERANS IN YOUR UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CONFIRMATION LETTER SENT IN PDF FILE: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFIRMATION LETTERS WILL BE SENT BY EMAIL. IF YOU WISH IT SENT BY MAIL TO ANOTHER ADDRESS THAN THE ONE ABOVE, PLEASE PROVIDE THE ADDRESS IN THE SPACE BELOW:**

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL NEEDS PARKING:**

**TO BE PARKED IN SPECIAL NEEDS (HANDICAP) AREA, YOU MUST HAVE ON FILE WITH THE REGISTRAR AN UP-TO-DATE : DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATE, STATE LICENSE REGISTRATION INCLUDING HANDICAP PLATE, OR HANDICAP PLACARD. THIS AREA IS RESERVED FOR WHEELCHAIRS, WALKERS, OR THOSE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY PROBLEMS: \_\_\_\_\_**

**GUEST 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 indicate they are your guests. We strongly suggest they enter the camping area at the same time you do. We are guests or NON-FCRV members of: \_\_\_\_\_.

**FEES:**

**EARLY BIRD PARKING (MARCH 16 – 19): FEE IS \$25 PER NIGHT WITH WATER AND ELECTRIC. EARLY BIRD FEES WILL BE COLLECTED AT TALLAHASSEE.**

**RALLY FEES: MARCH 20 – MARCH 25 AND LEAVE MONDAY: INCLUDES: 5 nights of camping, water, electric, Ice Cream Social, 2 evening meals, entertainment and all activities connected with the Rally.**

|   | <b><u>Pre-registration (paid in advance in full)</u></b> | <b><u>At the Gate</u></b> |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| Two people in a unit:                           | \$225.00   | \$250.00                  |
| Single person in a unit:                        | \$195.00   | \$220.00                  |
| Camp Pass (2 people or second couple in a unit) | \$125.00   | \$150.00                  |
| Camp Pass ( 1 person or extra person in a unit) | \$ 85.00   | \$110.00                  |

**REFUND POLICY: Refunds must be requested in writing by mail or email or phone call to the**

**Registrar.** Refunds requested before March 9, 2018 will receive the following: two people in a unit: \$200, one person in a unit: \$170.00, Camp Pass two people: \$100.00, Camp Pass single person: \$60.00.

After March 9, ONLY THE CAMPING FEE WILL BE REFUNDED. CAMP PASSES WILL RECEIVE NO REFUND.

**Make checks or money order (US CURRENCY ONLY) payable to: FCRV/NCHA RETIREE RALLY 2018. 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](mailto:pramlow@aol.com).





# 58<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FAMILY CAMPERS & RVers CAMPVENTION

HOSTED BY: REGION SIX

SOUTHEAST REGION

**"WHERE OUR COUNTRY BEGAN"**

THE MEADOW EVENT PARK, 13191 DAWN BLVD, DOSWELL, VIRGINIA 23047

EARLY DAYS: JULY 7 - 8, 2018 RALLY DAYS: JULY 9-13, 2018

EARLY DAYS PARKING: \$25 PER NIGHT

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATIONS: JUNE 21, 2018



REGISTRAR ONLY:

REG #: \_\_\_\_\_

CH #: \_\_\_\_\_

AMT: \_\_\_\_\_

SN: \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE/OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST/PRV: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME OF OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ST/PRV: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ SEND MY CONFIRMATION LETTER IN PDF: YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

IS THIS YOUR FIRST CAMPVENTION? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ ARE YOU A VETERAN? YES: \_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_

## NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN YOUR UNIT:

#OF ADULTS: \_\_\_ TEENS: \_\_\_ YOUTH 9-12 \_\_\_ YOUTH 5-8 \_\_\_ YOUTH 0-4 \_\_\_ TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN UNIT: \_\_\_

PLEASE LIST THE NAMES AND AGES OF ALL TEENS AND YOUTH:

| NAME | AGE | NAME | AGE |
|------|-----|------|-----|
|      |     |      |     |
|      |     |      |     |
|      |     |      |     |

## CAMPVENTION PARKING:

THE GATES WILL BE OPEN ALL DAYS FROM 8 A.M. TILL 8 P.M. THERE WILL BE AN OVERFLOW AREA FOR THOSE ARRIVING LATE, HOWEVER THERE ARE NO HOOKUPS. THE FIRST 150 UNITS THROUGH THE GATE WILL HAVE FULL HOOK-UP. PARKING IS HOBO STYLE WITH NO SAVING OF SITES. IF YOU WANT TO PARK NEXT TO SOMEONE COME IN TOGETHER. THOSE WITHOUT SEWER WILL BE GIVEN A VOUCHER FOR ONE FREE DUMP.

## SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION

CHECK IF REQUESTING A SPECIAL NEEDS SITE: \_\_\_\_\_

NO SPECIAL NEEDS SITES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE GATE. YOU MUST BE REGISTERED.

## REGISTRATION:

EVERYONE MUST FILL OUT A REGISTRATION FORM INCLUDING SECOND FAMILIES AND CAMP PASSES. SUBMIT PAYMENT WITH REGISTRATION FORM. ALL FUNDS SHOULD BE US. CURRENCY OR CHECKS. NO CREDIT CARDS.

|                           | REGISTRATION | AT GATE      |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| ONE FAMILY IN UNIT.....   | \$290        | \$300        |
| EXTRA FAMILY IN UNIT..... | \$135        | \$140        |
| WALK-IN CAMP PASS.....    |              | \$20 PER DAY |

## THINGS TO SEE AND DO:

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG, KINGS DOMIMION AMUSEMENT PARK AND BUSCH GARDENS WILLIAMSBURG, BIRTH PLACES OF: ROBERT E. LEE, GEORGE WASHINGTON, HOMES OF: PATRICK HENRY, PRESIDENT JOHN MADISON, STONEWALL JACKSON SHRINE, NUMEROUS FORTS, MUSEUMS AND BATTLEFIELDS.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FCRV 2018 CAMPVENTION

MAIL TO: BILL AND PENNY RAMLOW

341 HOLLY COVE ROAD #8

WHITTIER, NC 28789

CONTACT THEM AT: 305-822-6589, 813-545-6083 OR

EMAIL: [pramlow@aol.com](mailto:pramlow@aol.com)

REFUND POLICY: IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, ALL EXCEPT \$25 WILL BE REFUNDED

WE WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR: \_\_\_\_\_