VOICE of the Camping Family – Family Campers and RVers

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From the President - Shari Weber



Craig & I just enjoyed the Kentucky Colonels and friends Campout in Lake Cumberland Kentucky. I observed a couple of things during this event. First, it only takes a small gesture to make people feel special. There was a family who arrived a little after everyone else. They arrived and got settled and then joined us for activities in the evening. We were all gathered doing a variety of different things, but when the family arrived I stopped and went to give them a hug and say Hi. A few days later I was told that hug meant a great deal to them as the trip that day had been very hectic. A small thing that I did made a big difference! Are you doing that small thing? It doesn't take much.

The other thing that happened is the long tradition of camping in Lake Cumberland has met with challenges. We are being forced to evaluate our time which is traditionally the week of US Thanksgiving. It is also necessary for us to find a new location for next year as the park is undergoing major renovations in 2018 and will be closed. Needless to say, changes have been made and we look forward to those changes making a big difference in our campout. So, the point of all this is change is a healthy part of life. Don't wait to make positive change until you are forced to do so. Remember the old adage, "If you continue to do things the same way, you will continue to get the same results".

Thanks to all of you who volunteered to help with the Tampa RV Show! It is January 16 - 21, 2018. Come by if you are in the area. We are looking forward to spreading the word about our wonderful camping family.

Houses are being decorated for the holidays. Delicious smells are wafting through the air. Smiles and positive music surround us. Enjoy your family celebrations. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and peace in the New Year!

Shari

Come Camp With Us!



THIS 'N THAT

Michigan Ass. Of RV Dealers & Campgrounds reports an 11% increase in attendance at their fall Detroit Show. Hershey, PA show reports record attendance also.

Camping World reports at 25% increase in revenue in the 3rd quarter ending in September citing strong sales of new vehicles.

The RV Dealers Assn. will offer their driver safety program online starting in April. the 6 hour course (previously offered only at shows and rallies) is \$49.95. <u>www.rvsafety.com</u> under Education tab.

Christmas History

The custom of decorating a tree comes from Germany. Prince Albert of Germany, the husband of Queen Victoria, set up a splendid tree in Windsor Castle. He had servants trim the tree with candies, sugared fruits and tiny wrapped gifts. This began the Victorians love of Christmas decorating.

Franklin Pierce was the first United States' president to decorate an official White House Christmas tree .





In response to Gloria's letter: I was invited to join FCRV in 1994 as it is a Christian Organization, a good family camping group and I found that to be true. Church services on Sunday, prayers and finally gospel entertainment. When FCRV was larger at the Retirees Rally's services for all Religions were arranged where possible.

Parking---I suggest that Phil and Gloria be put in

charge of parking next Campvention and they will find out how hard it is to park by states. I have met some nice interesting campers when Hobo parked. Also why did the cross get removed at the farewell column after all these years?

When I started to be a worker, I felt more involved and made many friends-but found that not all members were friendly-probably some of that was my fault. I enjoyed my 22 years camping, working, games-teasing Barb at the golf scramble. and I will never forget Mr. ED from PA.

Weldon Segars Crowley, Tx.





Tallahassee, FL March 20 - 25, 2018

Greetings from Our FCRV Retiree Directors

Ok, everyone, let's get ready and head for Tallahassee for some warm weather and a great time at the International Retiree Rally.

We are looking forward in seeing everyone there, and we look forward to working with Dave and Linda Hennie as Hosts for this rally.

The dates for the Retiree Rally are March 20-26, 2018, but come early on March 16th and tour the area. They have lots to do with museums, antique shops and plenty of restaurants.

Hope to see everyone in March.

Ron & Reba Ray, National Retiree Directors

Memorial Ceremony by Rev. Harold Braley

Please let Rev. Braley know about members deaths of your state or province, so those names can be read at the National Retiree Rally memorial service. Send names to <u>hbraley@outlook.com</u>



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





It's not too early to be gathering door prizes for the 2018 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!



Food Bank



We are coming to you in asking for aid and support of the local food bank in Tallahassee, Florida 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



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



Lap Robes

As has been our tradition for several FCRV Retiree Rallies, we make and do-

nate lap robes for area nursing homes and hospitals in our rally host location. We hope you have been working on lap robes for Tallahassee, Florida in March.



Calling all ladies, young and old, for a lunch time high entertainment activity. The ladies on the planning crew have sought near and far for just the right experience that you will remember for at least the rest of the week. Please plan on attending and purchasing your tickets on Sunday or Monday or anytime you see us in the hall.

Red Hat Luncheon

Planning Crew: Dora Lewis, Shari Weber, & Sandi Wingert



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

RV Communities: These Neighborhoods Have RV Garage Home Plans For RVers Who Want A Nice <u>Home Too</u>

By Randy

Want to see what it's like living in a house with RV garage? Browse through the RV garage homes in these RV communities! RV retirement communities that have homes with RV garage plans are popular among those who want to incorporate their lifelong dreams of being a road warrior while still having a permanent home base.

https://homebuilding.thefuntimesguide.com/ home with rv garage plan/

Entertainment







July 9 - 13, 2018 The Meadow Event Park Doswell, Virginia

Campvention 2018 Committees Met

By Marjory & Don Bates, Campvention Chairs

The 2018 Campvention Steering Committee and committee chairs had a very productive meeting in Doswell in October, and we are ready for all of you to join us in Doswell, Virginia on July 9-13, 2018 for a wonderful time meeting old friends, making new ones, and participating in all the planned activities at Campvention. Plus, there are so many places in this section of the United States for you to see and enjoy.



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 color. Send your designs to Becca Coniglio at 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 Sites to Visit

By Barb Turner, Publicity Chair

With the winter months ahead, it's an excellent time to plan for those warm camping days of summer, specifically July and Campvention 2018 in Doswell, Virginia. What would interest you?

I asked the members of the committee for suggestions to share with our membership as they anticipate the upcoming Campvention. Bill Alderman, Campvention Steering Committee member, suggested the following:

- The Capitol and White House
- At least 50 Civil War battlefields are open to the public. Many are National Parks or National Monuments. They range from the Opening (Manassas) to the near-end (Petersburg).

• Seven presidential homes, including Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, both Harrisons, etc.

• Restored Williamsburg, Jamestown (first English settlement), and Yorktown. All parks can be visited in one day -- they are adjacent.

• Museums, including the Smithsonian, D.C. Galleries, the US Marine Corps and many others.

• The Skyline Drive in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Many of the northern attractions may be reached by train; the station is close by. At Campvention, we'll have a listing of tours to many. Most of the national parks have ranger talks and self-guided tours.

Over the winter, enjoy reading about these various sites on your computers and anticipate your visit in July.



QUILT REFLECTS MEMORIES

Have you ever thought that you would like to have a memory piece of NCHA/FCRV all in one place? Not on jackets, nor vests, hats, caps, a sheet, nor plastered on your RV?

Well, now is the time to come to the aid of your 2018 Campvention being held at The Meadow Event Park, Doswell, Virginia, next July, and take chances on a beautiful memory Quilt made by your National Historian, who has been quilting for many years.

We are selling chances on the Quilt and an Afghan (through the mail, as well as at Campvention next summer). One ticket will be \$2.00 each, or, \$10.00 for multiple tickets measured by your outstretched arms' length, finger tip to finger tip. At Campvention last July, some men's arm span was 75" long. That is a lot of tickets for \$10 bucks!! The 2nd place drawing is an amythyst afghan also made by one of our FCRV members, Ann Bailey from Staunton, Virginia (who passed away in August).

The Quilt portrays NCHA/FCRV Campvention patches from the 1st Campvention in 1960 through next year's 2018 Campvention. There are also several National Program patches included, in each of the four corners, in the center of the bottom row, and a few sprinkled in the center of the Quilt, as well as the old shield NCHA patch in the center of the top row. Also noted in the center of the Quilt is the FCRV logo, our mascot Bizzy Beaver, and our bi-centennial special project patch from 1976. Along with the Quilt are two pillow shams, one of which has the large round NCHA member patch, and the other has the large FCRV patch. The Quilt has been appraised at \$1,200.00 - \$1,500.00. This ways and means project is to defray some of the expenses of campvention.

Some lucky person or family will win this unique, never to be duplicated, colorful quilt, and we cannot wait to learn who has the lucky ticket! In cutting out the squares of the quilt, piecing them together, adding the batting, and the backing to the Quilt top, it took 160 hours to complete. The actual quilting of the finished product took 184 hours to complete. This project was started October 1, 2016 and finished on June 13, 2017. It has truly been a work of love, and we wanted to give back to FCRV in some small way, a token of affection for all that FCRV/NCHA has meant to us

Now, to order by mail, we need the following information:

Name			
Address			
E-mail			
Phone No			
Number of tickets you wis	h to purchase for <u>Quilt/Afghan</u> :		
1 ticket	\$2.00		
Multiple tickets	\$10.00 (arms' length, finger tip to finger tip)		
	inches for correct number of tickets		

Send check to us payable to 2018 FCRV Campvention (and mark check in memo space "Quilt/ Painting Fund" accordingly).

Your tickets will be sent to you upon receipt of your check, OR,

If you wish to pick up your tickets at National next July, let us know and they will be reserved for you,

marked paid, put into an envelope with your name on it, and given to you when you call for them at the Commercial Area where the Quilt and Afghan will be on display.

The Quilt and Afghan drawing will take place on Friday night at Campvention after the entertainment. Remember, you do not need to be present to win.

We look forward to hearing from you for ordering your tickets early. This has been a fun project, and hopefully will be remembered for years to come.

Shirley and Don MacKenzie National Historian 527 Firehouse Drive, Louisa, VA 23093 Email - <u>onecedarjunction@gmail.com</u> 540-967-9654

PAINTINGS - 2ND CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE

Yes, we have a second raffle of which you can take advantage at the 2018 Campvention. We have three beautiful Paintings which will be given away next summer as well. They are as follows:

1st Place - An 18" X 22" painting named "Morning Mist" captured somewhere in the Smokey Mountains. The painter is Philip MacKenzie from Churchville, Maryland, who is a professional artist and son of your National Historian. He has had one-man shows in Havre de Grace, Baltimore, and Towson State University, Maryland, as well as several shows in several cities in Florida. This painting has been appraised at \$500.00.

2nd Place - An 11" X 14" painting of an Or-



egon mountain scene. The painter is Barbara Brewer, an amateur painter, who is now 95 and is still going strong, and is a member of our church. Barbara at 72 wanted to do something to fill up her days and took a few courses in painting. Now her family cannot stop her from painting most of the time.

3rd Place - An 8" X 10" still life of a bouquet of lilac flowers in a vase. The colors in this painting really stand out. The painter is Rita Wimmer, an amateur painter and a FCRV member, of the Travel 'n' Wranglers Chapter in Staunton, Virginia.

This ways and means project is to defray some of the expenses of Campvention. The drawing for the Paintings will be on Friday night at Campvention after the entertainment. Remember, you do not need to be present to win.

All three paintings have been framed, and you can purchase the tickets for these Paintings as indicated below. To order, we need the following information :

Name

Address			

E-mail _____

Phone No._____

Number of tickets you wish to purchase for Paintings:

1	ticket	\$2.00
		+

Multiple tickets \$10.00 (arms' length, finger tip to finger tip)

_____ inches for correct number of tickets

Send check to us payable to 2018 FCRV Campvention (and mark check in memo space "Quilt/Painting Fund" accordingly).

Your tickets will be sent to you upon receipt of your check, OR,

If you wish to pick up your tickets at National next July, let us know and they will be reserved for you, marked paid, put into an envelope with your name on it, and given to you when you call for them at the Commercial Area where the Paintings, Quilt and Afghan will be on display.

All of these paintings were on display in the Commercial Area at the 2017 Campvention. The Paintings as well as the Quilt and Afghan received lots of attention, and lots of oohs and aahs!!! We watched the people and listened to their comments about all of these items, and we were pleased to hear such complementary remarks.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding your ticket purchases as early as possible.

In addition to the pre-sale of quilt/paintings raffle tickets, they will also be sold at Campvention prior to the drawings.

Shirley and Don MacKenzie National Historian 527 Firehouse Drive, Louisa, VA 23093 Email - <u>onecedarjunction@gmail.com</u> 540-967-9654

Quilt, afghan, and paintings raffle proceeds will be designated to help defray 2018 Campvention costs.





Marjory & Don Bates

Well, it's Region 6's time again.

Our members are very busy making plans to host "Where Our Country Began" for you all in Doswell Virginia. The 2018 FCRV Campvention will be at Meadow Event Park on July 9-13. There

will be early days July 7-8. So many places, events and things to see are available in this part of the United States and we hope many of you will take the opportunity of seeing them before and after Campvention. Barb Turner's articles in Camping Today are highlighting some of these places. Our members have planned activities for all ages. Bring your youth and teens. They are the future of Family Campers and RVers. Parking will be hobo. Don't miss the opportunity to make new friends. However, if you need or want to camp with your State members, make arrangements to meet outside the park and come in together.

SEE YOU IN DOSWELL.

The Christmas Season Begins in Branson

New this year: Silver Dollar City's An Old Time Christmas festival is bigger and brighter than ever, this year adding a huge new area, Christmas in Midtown, the largest single lighting expan-



sion to date in the past 2 decades of the festival, adding 1.5 million new lights, bringing the park total to 6.5 million lights. The festival also features a Christmas light parade, two original musical productions, a



5-Story Special Effects Christmas Tree, holiday dining and more. The festival runs November 4 – December 30.

The Showboat Branson Belle features the new

show *Celebrate Christmas* for Christmas season, presenting new musical selections plus **a blend** of classic and contemporary holiday favorites November 4 – December 31, plus January 1, 2018. The huge paddle-wheeler also presents Christmas adventure for kids on weekend *Santa's Pancakes & PJs* cruises.

Click this link to see all that is happening in Branson this Christmas season!

https://www.explorebranson.com/christmas



Hugs For Soldiers Project



Winter Texan members, Ron and Nancy Herberholz organized a drive in their area of the Rio Grande Valley for 'Hugs for Soldiers Project' to collect items for Christmas, cards with personal notes, and cash donations to cover mailing. They have

already mailed several priority flat rate boxes and several more will be filled and mailed to the hub in Deluth, Georgia. There they are bundled and sent out

to deployed military men and women all over the world. Several organizations including Weslaco New Life Baptist Church, LaHacienda Estates, RGV Good Sam's Veterans Chapter, good Sam's Rendezvous, FCRV, FCRV Winter Texans, Facebook friends, and others. The hope is to



make Christmas a little brighter for those serving our country away from home. Info

at <u>www.hugsforsoldiers.org</u> or <u>nanron5350@yahoo.c</u> <u>om</u>.

Meet Indiana's Newest Chapter!

By Angie Shaneyfelt

The Indiana FCRV Trustees hosted the Fall Invitational at Jennings County the first weekend in October. We are happy to introduce our newest club members, the "Airheads". They really fit in with our current members as they are <u>open minded</u> and <u>clear</u> <u>thinkers</u>, just like us.

In getting to know the Airheads we found out that they were a <u>quiet group</u> with not much to say. They commented that they <u>see no evil</u>, <u>hear no evil</u> or <u>speak no evil</u>. They also shared that they <u>face nothing</u> as far as problems with camping. They seemed like a <u>hard outline</u> to follow, but we found out they were <u>flat</u> and down to earth.

In discussing people they knew that would be interested in joining our camping group, the Airheads shared that their cousins are the <u>chalk lines</u> and their best friends are the <u>stick figures</u>. So maybe we'll be able to expand their new group. They were a very <u>see through</u> bunch that had <u>great complexions</u>, (they will make us look good). Beyond how they appeared, they weren't <u>very stiff</u> and appear to be so crazy about camping that they've <u>lost their heads</u>.

If you happen to see any of the Airheads at Campvention, make sure you say "Hi".





Fire Safety

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

Staying safe during the Holiday Season is very important. During this time following some very basic expectations can keep you safe. Holiday decorations can be very dangerous. Before you set up your holiday light displays or use lights elsewhere for decorative purposes within your home always check each and every string of lights for frayed wires, burned out bulbs and damaged plugs. When putting up your holiday lights, watch carefully how many strings of lights you have attached together-and plugged into one single plug-this can over load a circuit and cause an electrical fire. Fires of this kind fester behind the walls of your home long before you even realize something is drastically wrong. Outside display lights, are they weather protected. When you put up outside lights make sure they are acceptable to use outside during all types of weather conditions. Electricity and water do not mix-this is a disaster waiting to happen.

Let me give you an excellent example of what can happen. In 2015, six people lost their lives in Annapolis, Maryland, because a Christmas tree, over 15foot-tall fully decorated was left lit during the entire holiday season. The tree had been cut two months' prior to being placed in the large family room of the house. The tree should have been checked on a regular basis to make sure it had ample water. The bucket in which the tree was located contained a small amount of water if any at all. This tree became very dry as the holiday weeks passed. This was a disaster just waiting to happen. And so it did, as the New Year slowly arrived during the night as the family slept the tree caught fire. The fire spread quickly throughout this very large home and the family members consisting of two grandparents and four children died as result. It was said the family discussed removing the tree, just days before the deadly fire. Had they done so, a disaster would have been avoided. The most important point here is to unplug the tree when you go to sleep at night or are not at home. Keep water in the bucket for the "real" tree, and keep in mind that your so called "freshly cut trees" are probably cut several weeks before you made this purchase. The smell and aroma of a live tree in you household is wonderful, but keep in mind, the artificial tree may turn out to be the safest. Holiday decorations are beautiful but need to be used with safety in mind at all times.

After the fire occurred, and after a lengthy investigation it was learned that the tree was too dry, the decorative lights should have been turned off at night and the tree should have removed from the house much earlier for safety reason. Smoke alarms were in the house and in working condition but they were not enough to save this family. The fire spread too quickly before any rescue workers could arrive. This dead tree ended up being the major fuel source and thus it helped spread the fire very rapidly. It is important to note, that in some states and counties, for new construction or remodeled home and buildings a sprinkler system is now mandatory. Both of these emergency devices, smoke alarms and sprinkler systems can and do save lives.

Remember to be safe, and Wishing everyone a safe and joyous Holiday Season.

The Airstream Lawyer

By Paul Abercrombie

Plenty of lawyers, like many white collar workers these days, telecommute.

Few do so regularly from an Airstream camper deep in the woods.

Yet that's just what veteran Orlando



corporate attorney

Jack McMullen has done for the past year. Nostalgic for days as a kid spent camping with his family, and mindful that his 30-year legal practice has never required him to set foot in court, he and his wife several years ago began wondering if they couldn't expand the notion of telecommuting. That his firm, GrayRobinson, has a progressive attitude toward working outside the office helped convince him and his wife to spring for an iconic 28-foot Airstream camper.

Twice a month since, the couple has taken fourday trips in the camper, exploring campsites around the southeast. Software on his laptop, and a cellular hotspot that provides internet service, allow him to access all files he'd have at his fingertips back in his traditional office in downtown Orlando. Phone calls to his work number are automatically forwarded to his cell. Solar panels atop the camper provide power when farther afield.

"If colleagues pop into my office and I'm not there, they know I'm in my Airstream," he says. "All they have to do is call me or email me."

Clients, too, have encouraged his pastoral form of extreme telecommuting. "They know I'm just as available to help them any time, no matter where I am," he says. The couple's three grown daughters also know mom and dad are easy to reach any time. Meanwhile, Jack hopes to begin extending his telecommute by venturing farther west and north, to some of America's more famous national parks.

Of course, he admits some coworkers question his brand of telecommuting. "They ask how they can do it, too," he says with a laugh.



Celebrate the Chisholm Trail's 150th Anniversary with These 6 Historic Texas Towns

Courtesy of Texas Travel.com / Brandpoint Content



This year, 2017, marks the Chisholm Trail's 150th anniversary. The Chisholm Trail is the greatest migration of livestock in world history that relocated cattle from South Texas through Oklahoma all the way to Abilene, Kansas. The first herd to make the journey using the Chisholm Trail set off in 1867 and continued until 1885, relocating more than 5 million cattle and a million mustangs. Take a look back into the Texas cowboy way of life by visiting the Texas towns and countless museums that continue to pay homage to the trail and the cattle industry's history. You can explore the rich Texas history of ranch hands, cowboys and cattle by planning a trip to any one of these towns or all six.

Kingsville

Sitting on 825,000 acres in South Texas, an area larger than Rhode Island, <u>the King Ranch</u> established a "cow camp" and quickly became one of the most influential ranches in the world. Today, the King Ranch is a National Historic Landmark and offers several daily tour options: from the history of the ranch where you'll see the historic Santa Gertrudis Creek, where Captain King first camped in 1852, along with the grand home built in 1912 by Captain King's widow, Henrietta — to nature tours. A surprise to many is the fact the ranch is home to such a diverse ecosystem of plants and animals. In fact, famed conservationist Aldo Leopold called King Ranch "one of the best jobs of wildlife restoration on the continent" and it is now home to more than 363 species of birds, including the largest known population of ferruginous pygmy-owls in the U.S.

Yoakum

Like many towns that benefited from those traveling the Chisholm Trail, Yoakum did not sit on the trail itself, but is located about an hour from San Antonio. Due to its proximity to this population center, it quickly became used as a gathering ground for cattle to be driven up the Chisholm Trail and is considered by many to be the official starting place of the trail. With the introduction of the railroad, the trail became defunct so this inventive town found new ways to prosper beyond the cattle industry by encouraging its residents to grow tomatoes that could be easily shipped on the rail lines.

San Antonio

San Antonio became a gathering location for many herders starting their long journey. Trail drives were extremely important to the local economy. Now both the Witte Museum and the Buckhorn Saloon and Museum provide artifacts and exhibits that give visitors an idea of the beginnings of Texas cowboy life. While the Battle of the Alamo was long over by the time of the Chisholm Trail, history buffs can't miss this incredible landmark while in town, along with the four other Spanish colonial missions, which were named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2015.

Lockhart

Just 70 miles northeast of San Antonio, Lockhart was where two herding routes converged and on some days, 5,000 to 6,000 heads of cattle passed through this outpost. Today, on the second weekend of June, Lockhart celebrates the Chisholm Trail by hosting the Chisholm Trail Roundup, a four-day festival, featuring a chili cook-off, rodeo and even a cowboy breakfast around a chuck wagon on the courthouse square. You can also celebrate the trail's spirit year-round at Chisholm Trail Bar-B-Que, which has been serving slow-cooked meats from real pits using post oak wood since 1978.

Waco



Continuing northward. cattle herds the crossed Brazos River in Waco on their way to Kansas. In 1870, the newly completed Waco Suspension Bridge, a Nation-

al Historic Landmark created by the same architect behind the Brooklyn Bridge, provided a convenient, albeit costly, means for cattlemen to move herds across the Brazos. A sculpture near the Waco Suspension Bridge still commemorates the famous Chisholm Trail and captures the diversity of trail riders. These days, Waco provides visitors with an incredible range of activities, from checking out Ice Age-era fossils at the Waco Mammoth National Monument to uncovering delightful home and garden goods at Magnolia Market.

Fort Worth

Fort Worth, for many traveling the Chisholm Trail. was the last main stop to rest and refresh supplies. The city quickly became known as "Cowtown." Today, the Fort



Worth Stockyards transports visitors back in time when watching the Fort Worth Herd, the world's only twice-daily cattle drive, which takes place from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day in the stockyards. This area also features several restaurants and shops, along with the Stockyards Museum.

Explore historic Texas towns and make history come alive in celebration of Chisholm Trail's 150th anniversary across the Lone Star State. For more information about travel experiences in Texas, visit www.TravelTexas.com and find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.





dreidel

New Mercedes Pickup Targets 'Midsize' Segment

By Chrisiaan Hetzner Courtesy of RV Business

Daimler hopes the new Mercedes-Benz X class will be a game-changer for its light commercial vehicles division, giving the business a more diversified sales footprint by entering the booming global segment of midsize pickups.

As reported by Automotive News, Mercedes-Benz Vans boss Volker Mornhinweg said pickups are mov-

upmarket. ing just like SUVs done. have "SUVs are elelifestyle gant products with a high-quality finish to them. Not every customer takes them into



the wilderness anymore. We believe pickups could go in a similar direction."

Until now, Daimler's vans division has been overwhelmingly dependent on Europe, with 70% of its 360,000-unit volume coming from the region last year. With the X class, Daimler is targeting a diverse customer group from farmers in South America, building contractors in Australia, families in Brazil, and trend-conscious individuals in Europe and South Africa.

The pickup aims to tap into surging demand for vehicles capable of transporting one-ton payloads and towing an additional 3 1/2 tons. Mercedes forecasts volumes for this type of truck will grow by nearly half to 3 million vehicles worldwide in the next 10 years.

For the full story click here.

http://www.autonews.com/article/20171114/ COPY01/311149956/mercedes-pickup-aims-to-mimic-successof-brands-suvs

Hanukkah Celebration

Celebrate the festival of lights and stick to Hanukkah traditions to show your appreciation for the holiday. Take part in Chanukah traditions such as lighting the menorah, playing the dreidel game, eating gelt, cooking and baking delicious food, and enjoying the fun of Hanukkah gifts. .

Camping Today



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 <u>will begin in January 2018</u>, 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



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ANDERSON DESIGN GROUP CELEBRATES

THE BEAUTY & HISTORY OF THE SMOKIES with new "Illustrated Guide to Great Smoky Mountains National Park" Coffee Table Book

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – <u>Anderson Design Group</u> will be commemorating the nation's most visited National Park with the release of their *Illustrated Guide to Great Smoky Mountains National Park* coffee table book.



UNC-Asheville Historian and Smoky Mountains expert Daniel S. Pierce, illustrator Joel Anderson, and travel writer Nathan Anderson, provide а fascinating jaunt through the Smokies, as seen Anderson Design through Group's well-known and definitive artwork. This one-of-akind guide is packed with engaging historical narrative,

essential travel tips and trivia, historical photos and maps, former ranger quotes, and 40 original handillustrated poster designs and paintings.

Great Smoky Mountain National Park is a glorious, ecologically diverse landscape located between Tennessee and North Carolina. Home to more than 18,000 plant and animal species, the Smokies are within a day's drive of two-thirds of the nation's population. Today, the Smoky Mountains are a destination for unparalleled encounters with nature. Over 1000 miles of trails and roadways offer car campers and backpackers access to this American treasure.

The Illustrated Guide to Great Smoky Mountains National Park book includes 40 full color posters from the Anderson Design Group's award winning Illustrated National Parks Collection. The book also includes beautiful wildlife and scenic photography from the Smokies, travel tips and trail tours, an illustrated Park Map featuring must-see landmarks, an historic overview of Great Smoky Mountain National Park, and compelling stories from former Park Rangers. "Anderson Design Group has been working for seven years to create a collection of prints that feature the natural wonders of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We have produced an award-winning series of poster art rendered in the tradition of the classic WPA (Work Projects Administration) prints from the 1920s and 1930s," said Joel Anderson.

Designed in Nashville and printed in the USA, the new hardcover and softcover *Illustrated Guide to Great Smoky Mountains National Park* will be available on **Oct. 6**, and will be available for purchase at <u>adgstore.com</u> or at Anderson Design Group's Studio Store, 116 29th Avenue North in Nashville. The hard cover will retail for \$39.95, the soft cover, \$24.95.

Anderson Design Group, Inc. is an award-winning graphic design firm based in Nashville, TN. Founder Joel Anderson and a group of talented artists and illustrators have been creating branding, book covers, packaging, and posters since 1993. In 2015, Anderson Design Group celebrated the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service with the release of their book, **59 Illustrated National Parks.** For more information, visit: <u>adgstore.com</u>.

Carefree of Colo. is Rolling Out 'Altitude' Awning

Courtesy of RV Business

Carefree of Colorado's announced the launch of the latest product in its vertical arm power awning lineup, the Carefree Altitude.

According to a press release, the 12-volt RV awning has a short arm length of 54 inches, giving manufacturers more flexibility when it comes to the installation location especially on goosenecks, fifthwheels, or baggage door clearance. Features include:

features include:

- Carefree Connects: The newest patented innovation from Carefree of Colorado providing a variety of plug-and-play OEM and aftermarket awning accessories such as outdoor speakers positioned for optimal sound performance, USB charge ports, and many more accessories that enhance the camping experience.
- Halo Control: A signature orange, LED illuminated control switch allowing "Carefree One-Touch" operation directly on the awning arm.

- Carefree One-Touch: Simplifies awning operation with a single touch to extend/retract the awning without having to press and hold the switch.
- Memory-Pitch: Making pitch adjustment quick and simple when the awning is either open or closed, while memorizing the previous awning pitch position.
- Carefree Motion: A motion sensing accelerometer that automatically retracts the awning during sustained windy conditions.

Additionally, the Altitude features the latest technological features including operation through the Bluetooth-enabled smart phone app that allows RVers to extend, retract your awning, turn off/ on or dim the LED light, and adjust Carefree Motion's sensitivity to wind.



Celebrate the Holidays with FRUIT: A Savor the South Cookbook

by Nancie McDermott

Fruits of the American South provide a unique and tasty bounty due to the region's hot, humid weather and fertile

soil. This fall, celebrate these unique and delicious gifts from nature with FRUIT: A SAVOR THE SOUTH COOKBOOK by Nancie McDermott, a collection celebrating a dozen signature Southern fruits in a cook's basket of fifty-four luscious recipes, both savory and sweet.

Demand for these edible jewels is growing among those keen to feast on the South's natural pleasures, whether gathered in the wild or cultivated with care. McDermott features indigenous fruits in the book including blackberries, mayhaws, muscadine and scuppernong grapes, pawpaws, persimmons, and strawberries. Non-native fruits, eagerly adopted long ago by Southern gardeners and cooks, grace this intriguing volume as well, including cantaloupes, damson plums, figs, peaches, quince, and watermelons.

"Southern fruits matter, both as mementos of the gardening and gathering of culinary seasons past and as worthy edible treasures for the present and future South," explains McDermott. "With the 21st century enthusiasm for do-it-yourself pursuits in the kitchen, and with chefs employing professional foragers to gather good things from the natural world, these southern treasures are on home and restaurant menus once again."

From old-school to the new and unique, Nancie's recipes offer home cooks and chefs delicious ways to use this sweet Southern bounty. Recipes in FRUIT include:

Persimmon Cookies Cantaloupe Agua Fresca Lamb Shanks with Damson Plum Sauce Okracoke Island Fig Cake with Buttermilk Glaze Slow-Cooker Pulled Pork with Mayhaw Jelly Barbecue Sauce Moroccan-Inspired Lamb Stew with Quince Fresh Fig Pie Pawpaw Ice Cream Old-Time Persimmon Pudding Quince Compote Pawpaw Custard Pie

From bluegrass to sea grass, from red clay fields to bayous, and from the Carolina Lowcountry to the Great Smoky Mountains, take a culinary journey with Nancie McDermott and taste the sweet and savory fruits of the bountiful South.



Nancie McDermott is a cookbook author and cooking teacher fascinated by the people, stories, and places behind the food. A North Carolina native and graduate of UNC Chapel Hill, she loves exploring the history, culture, and

distinctions within the regional cuisines of the American South. A former Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand, she also focuses on the cooking of Thailand and the culinary traditions of Southeast Asia. A contributing editor for Saveur and Edible Piedmont, Nancie writes for Southern Living, Fine Cooking, Cooks Illustrated, Bon Appetit, and Every Day with Rachael Ray. She also teaches cooking classes around the country. Nancie's extensive television cooking experience includes leading the host of an Epicurious show around a Los Angeles Thai market for the Discovery Channel, and playing the Cake Detective on the Coconut Cake episode of Alton Brown's "Good Eats" on the Food Network. Her online video cooking classes are featured on Craftsy.com Nancie's cookbooks include Southern Cakes: Sweet and Irresistible Recipes for Everyday Celebrations; Southern Pies: A Gracious Plenty of Pie Recipes from Lemon Chess to

Chocolate Pecan, and Southern Soups and Stews: From Gumbo and Burgoo to Etouffee and Fricasee. Nancie is a member of the International Association of Culinary Professionals, Les Dames d'Escoffier, the Association of Food Journalists, and the Southern Foodways Alliance. She lives with her family in Chapel Hill NC.



MagnetPal



Does someone in your household always misplace their key? Do you they spend time looking for their keys everytime they want to leave the house? Place a MagnetPAL on their key ring and problem this is solved. MagnetPAL most powerful magnet allows you

to hang your keys on the metal screw in the faceplate of the light switch by the door. The keys are there every time.

Use MagnetPAL as a hide a key, or place a spare key under the car. How about those other spares: boat key, bike key, freeze key? MagnetPAL allows you to organize or hide any key. MagnetPAL is remarkably strong and permanent. It will never rust, fail or fall off.

- #1 Hang spare keys on light switch faceplate
- #2 Find stud fasters behind paint and drywall
- #3 Put one in your tool belt to hold screws or nails
- #4 Secure blueprints to any metal surface on jobsit
- #5 Clean up metal shavings in your workshop

For boaters, here are the basic product benefits:

- People drop things overboard. Tools, Fishing gear, keys, etc.
- Tie a MagnetPAL to a line and retrieve lost items, or even 'fish' for others lost items in the port, marina or bay.
- MagnetPAL is tiny, strong, will never, rust or fail. It can retrieve items up to 14lbs.
- Made from strong ABS plastic with a loop to tie your line.

- You can use 1 or more MagnetPALs on your rig. (Slang for fishing line).
- When not in use, keep on your • key chain as a hide a key or key organizer.

For carpenters, here are other benefits:



MagnetPAL - Stud Finder. The world's smallest Key Chain Stud Finder,

Features:

- Fits on Key Chain so it is always handy. Great for handymen, carpenters, tradesmen, cable pullers, etc.
- Powerful Finds the metal drywall and screws holding the studs in place
- Strong Hook Allows the user to attach a plumb line and work hands-free

For Auto:

- GrabbitSTICK Pick up dropped bit bolts or screws in hard to reach places.
- MagnetPAL Organize your spare keys
- Stick a MagnetPAL on a key chain, then you can attached a your keys to the faceplate of your light switch. The keys will never fall off. It creates a habit of where to place your keys.

Solvit Products' SmartFit[™] Premium Seat Covers Now Available for **Bucket Seats Combining Superior Materials To Create** Equal Parts Luxury And Durability

Arlington, Texas - Everyone wants to bring the dog along for the ride and no one enjoys the trip more

than Fido, but what about the mess that it can cause? Seat covers can provide protection but they are usually ill-fitting and ugly. Solvit Products has a remedy for this problem. Their SmartFitTM Premium Bench, Hammock and now Bucket style seat covers look great and fit like a glove.



"Anyone who has a dog knows the importance of

protecting an expensive car interior," says Patrick Hoffman, President of Solvit Products. "Our premium seat covers provide unmatched protection without making your interior look like an old family room couch."

Solvit's Premium seat covers are made from heavy, quilted 100% cotton twill trimmed with genuine leather accents for a beautiful finish. They incorporate a completely waterproof membrane to prevent seat damage from moisture, mud and spills, and the seat belt slits use waterproof zippers to prevent dirt hair and liquids from passing through to the seats below.

Solvit's SmartFit[™] technology will provide a significantly improved fit on all vehicles. This system includes elasticized panels on sides and front, Sta-Put[™] seat anchors, seat belt "keepers" and cinch straps on the corners. Attachment points at highstress locations are made with double reinforced fabric and sturdy brass fasteners will sustain even the roughest use (complete list of features varies by model). These SmartFit[™] features and a non-slip backing work together to hold the cover firmly in place.

These seat covers are available in standard widths in bucket (MSRP \$59.99), bench (MSRP \$94.99) and hammock styles (MSRP \$114.99) and extra wide widths in bench (MSRP \$99.99) style ensuring a snug fit in all vehicles. There are two color options: green with grey trim and grey with black trim and they are machine washable and covered by Solvit's Lifetime Warranty.

"When we set out to design these seat covers our goal was to incorporate beauty, functionality and durability into our final product," added Hoffman. "And I can honestly say that I think we have succeeded in all three categories."

www.solvitproducts.com

TUFFY SECURITY PRODUCTS MAKE GREAT GIFTS

CORTEZ, Colo. - The holiday season is fast approaching, and many are already thinking of the perfect gifts to buy. Amidst the neckties, scented gift sets, socks and department store countertop knick-knacks, consumers are inundated with options that are eventually relegated to the back of the closet or re-gifted later. This holiday season, select a product guaranteed to see some serious use.

Tuffy Security Products offers the perfect gift for any truck or Jeep driver, traveling sales professional, college student, gun aficionado, tech savvy individual and more. With conceal and carry lockboxes, secure storage boxes designed to fit under seats, portable safes and security gloveboxes, Tuffy makes securing valuables easy.

The Laptop Security Lockbox or Tablet Safe is the ideal gift for those individuals in your life who just have to bring their laptop or tablet everywhere they go. Tuffy's Laptop Security Lockbox is 18 5/16 inches wide, 5 1/4 inches deep and 14 1/4 inches across. One and two inch thick foam lining protects the contents within from sliding around. Most standard laptops will fit inside the lockbox with ease while being protected by a Pry-Guard locking system with 1/8 inch thick steel components and a 10 tumbler double bitted key.

Measuring 14 1/8 inches long, 10 5/8 inches wide and 1 3/4 inches in height and weighing less than seven pounds, Tuffy's Tablet Safe is perfect for securing handguns or tablets. With the combo lock above the exterior lid surface, the safe has a height of 2.5 inches. Low-



density foam protects the contents, and the safe comes with a steel cable which is two feet long and anchors through convenient pre-drilled holes to allow for easy mounting to solid surfaces. Keyless entry is achieved by a three-digit combination lock with a two -point steel cam for additional security.

Tuffy also offers a Portable Safe. Weighing less than three pounds, the Portable safe is 9 3/4 inches long, 6 1/2 inches wide and 1 4/5 inches in height. The inside compartment is lined with low-density foam to protect the contents and compressions bumpers to keep the lid vibration-free when closed. A three -digit combination lock with a two-point steel cam provides additional security. The welded steel storage box secures and protects while being able to be carried by hand during travel, transported inside a vehicle or stored at home or in an office.

In addition, Tuffy Security Products offers a wide range of other durable, dependable security options for those on your holiday shopping list.

About Tuffy Security Products

Tuffy Security Products safeguard valuable gear with American-made craftsmanship. The full line of Tuffy security solutions provide premium, superior protection against theft, enable safe cargo management, increase gear accessibility and offer the option of flexible keyless lock-entry for multiple users. Tuffy Security Products is a portfolio company of Kinderhook Industries and a sister company of Bestop, Inc., maker of Jeep and truck soft tops and accessories. For more information, visit Tuffy Security Products' website at <u>www.tuffyproducts.com</u> or call 800-348-8339. Follow on Facebook: @tuffyproducts, Twitter: @tuffyproducts

New Flood Buzz[™] Line of Water Leak Alarms Provides Early Warning of Potential Water Leaks For Recreational Vehicles and Boats

October 27, 2015, Short Hills, NJ -- Prevent water damage and protect your RVs and boats with Flood BuzzTM, the easy-to-use, low-cost, loud and effective small water-leak alarm. The patented Flood BuzzTM warns of impending water leaks before they wreak havoc by sounding an alarm when it senses a water leak condition.



Flood BuzzTM water leak alarms are the perfect low-cost solution for RVs and all boats. Flood BuzzTM Alarms are easy-to-use with an internal threeyear battery and preset programming that eliminates installation time. Just place the alarm next to

any potential leak location and walk away. Several models are available in the Flood BuzzTM line: the larger Flood BuzzTM Pro, which will sound a 110 dB alarm when water touches the two prongs on the bottom of the product and the smaller and more economical Flood BuzzTM Small, which will sound a 90-95 dB alarm when it senses a water leak condition.

Flood BuzzTM is manufactured and distributed by Archetype Ltd., a New Jersey-based product development and manufacturing group at the forefront of providing easily adaptable and affordable products. For more information call 866-797-6686 or visit our website at www.FloodBuzzAlarms.com



Farewells

Marilyn Williamson, Past Canadian Regional Director



Marilyn Mae Williamson, 86 of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada passed away November 16, 2017. She and her husband of 63 years, Roy were Canadian Regional Directors from the early 1970 & through 1997. Roy had also served on the Board of Trustees as Corresponding Secretary. The Williamson served as Chair, Co-Chair and Committee members for all of the Canada Campventions, 1971, 1979, 1986, 1999, 2006, and 2012. Roy and Marilyn were lifetime members of FCRV, having joined in the early 1960's. They were members of the Hamilton Loadluggers for 51 years until the chapter disbanded and they joined the Meandering Mohawks. Always active, Marilyn held most chapter offices and with Roy organized several O.P.A. Campouts and five Regional Campouts from Ontario to the East Coast. She organized over 100 campouts and social events into her 80's including interchapter visits with sister American chapter, the Ken Ton Awandas.

Jack Smye said. "Sonya and I first met Marilyn in 1979 at the Canada Campvention. Being new to the organization we didn't realize what was going on or how things were done, but we were impressed by how organized the campers were, including Marilyn. When we joined the Loadluggers we got to know the members and the Williamsons better. They were always friendly and although campers are not supposed to be clickish we would gravitate to their nit for a chat or to enjoy their campfire. Marilyn had a good sense of humor and did not take herself too seriously even though she was on the Executive Board. Hospitality was important to her and even when she was in her 80's if she was hosting a chapter meeting the spread would be like going to high tea. Camping was not her total life. She and Roy were active volunteers

in their church and community. It is difficult to put into a few words almost 40 years of knowing a camping friend. Marilyn will be missed. Her obituary said, "Her happiness in life came from her close bond with family and friends and her memories spent camping."

Marilyn Willamson is survived by her husband, Roy, children, Debbie & Tom, Cheryl, Greg & Brenda, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to the family at <u>roy-mar10@rogers.com</u>. Memorial donations may be made to Diabetes Canada.

Grace Roszell 11-12-17, Guelph, Ontario, Arcadia, FL, Past Canadian Conservation Director, Kings of the Road Chapter. Long time member.

Margaret Handrow, 92, 11-14-17, Fort Worth, Texas. Held many chapter and state offices, longtime active member.

Larry Hadman, 96, Manhattan, Kansas, Mission, TX, Man-Kans Chapter, longtime member.

Marilyn Decker, 78, Topeka, Kansas, Wagoneers Chapter.





MARCH

March 20 - 25, 2018 - International Retiree Rally

North Florida Fairgrounds, Tallahassee, Florida. Early days March 16 - 20, 2018. Registration form in this issue of *Camping Today* and on the FCRV website (www.fcrv.org).

JULY

July 9 - 13, 2018 - Family Campers & RVers Campvention

The Meadow Event Park, Doswell, Virginia. Early days July 7 - 8, 2018. Registration form in this issue of *Camping Today* and on the FCRV website (www.fcrv.org)



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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.

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