CAMPING TODAY®

January 2018





FCRV has been fortunate to have two sets of triplets grow up and participate in our activities. Read more about them.....Page 10

The Couch Triplets
(I-r) Patrick, Gary & Molly



The Brandt Triplets
(I-r) Charles, Jr., Andrew & Erin

FCRV National Election is coming up in 2018. Make sure the National Office has your email or mailing address especially if you travel.....Page 3

SUSPENDED: Chapter Scrapbook/ST/PR Photobook contest. See details onPage 12





Tents For Troops	page 11
Learn more about the Tents for Troops program	
Senior Travel	page 13
Writer offering unique look at attractions	
Write It Off? Sure	page 15
Many people wonder if their RV can be used as a write off	
	page 15

DEPARTMENT

From	n the President	3
Lette	er To Editor	4
Retir	ee Rally 2018	5
	pvention 2018	
Direc	ctor's Desk	9
Miles	stones	9
FCR'	V Activities	11
Prod	ucts	16
Farev	wells	17
Upco	oming Events	19
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VP of Operations: Sue Fromholzer VP of Programs: George Walters VP of Planning & Development

Scott Serbousek

Corresponding. & Recording Officer:

Sue Carlson

Comptroller: Jan Cushing Past President: Jack Smye

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From the President - Shari Weber

Have you made your New Year's resolution? Hopefully it is to go camping more in 2018. Many states are doing RV shows during January, February, and March. Hopefully, you are helping with one that is nearby.

Recently there has been a discussion generated on who we are as an organization in Letters to the Editor including one in this issue. It has been interesting. Our organization was founded on family values and enjoying and protecting outdoor recreation. We focus particularly on camping and activities enjoyed while camping. Our founder was Jewish. What comes to my mind as I have followed the comments is that we need to be more open minded and welcoming to members who have a different idea than that of our own. We also need to embrace new ways of doing things. Sometimes the old ways just are not right for the current situation. Learning new things helps keep us on our toes.

ELECTION

Three trustee positions are up for election this year. We have a good slate of candidates. Be sure to check for their pictures, bios and platforms in the March issue of "Camping Today". Please look for the election article in this issue for information on the election process and be sure to vote.

RV SHOWS

RV Shows are beginning and Family Campers & RVers are participating in several throughout the US and Canada. The manufacturers are making record numbers of rvs. Dealers are selling them in record numbers. I was just at the national campground owner's conference and people are filling campgrounds both private and public. We want to invite these folks to join our camping family. Go out in these next few months and invite someone to enjoy camping with you.

CAMPING

The retiree rally is in March $20^{th} - 25^{th}$ in Tallahassee FL. Dave & Linda Hennie and their team are

planning "Spring Break" for all who attend. All are welcome whether retired or not to attend this rally planned with the interests of older adults in mind.

Campvention is July 9th – 13th in Doswell VA where "Our Country Began". Marjorie & Don Bates, Ron & Reba Ray and Gerry & Betty Owens and their team are planning a great experience for everyone. This rally is planned for all ages and has activities for youth, teens and all ages of adults. Come and reunite with your camping family from all over the US and Canada.

I wish everyone many blessings in this new year.

Shari

Come Camp With Us!

National Election

There are three positions up for election in March. President has one candidate, Shari Weber from Illinois who is incumbent. Vice President Programs has two candidates, George Walters from Florida, the incumbent and Loren Douglas from Ontario. Recording/Corresponding Officer also has two candidates, Sue Carlsen from Florida/Michigan, the incumbent and Cheryl Descoteaux from South Carolina. There will be bios and platforms in the March issue of "Camping Today". Members of FCRV are entitled to one vote. Ballots will be distributed by email for those of you who have email and by first class mail for the rest. We will use email address and postal addresses we have on file for you. If an absentee ballot is needed it must be requested by January 15, 2018. A request for an absentee ballot can be made by phone or email to the national office. Phone 716-668-6242 Email fcrvnat@verizon.net.





Letter to the Editor



Rebuttal Letter to Mr. Segars:

Mr. Segars you are slightly misinformed. NCHA/FCRV is not a Christian organization. It is a camping organization with family values (the mission statement is on the FCRV website). Church services should be nondenominational so all feel welcome. Thus the appropriate removal of the cross at the Farewell section.

I also agree with Gloria about the parking. However, I believe (and someone correct me if I'm wrong) that parking is being done the way it is because of the number of full hookup sites. It is just easier to do as a first come first serve basis. But, I take umbrage at your "suggestion" that the Steinberg take over parking at the next campvention so they will know how hard it is. Phill and Gloria have been members since 1970 (as she stated) and have held or helped just about every position there is. So, they have a very good idea how hard it is.

Carol Burns Nelliston, New York

Editor's Note: Let's let the organization's Mission Statement be the last word on the subject.

"Mission Statement -To share with all campers / RVers, the Family Campers & RVers fun, friendship, fellowship, and family feelings of camping together and to promote and enhance the experience and enjoyment of recreational family type camping and RVing." Click link to see Mission Statement https://www.fcrv.org/who-we-are/about-us/



'CBS News' Revisits Elkhart Co.; Tracks RV Boom

Courtesy of RV Business

Americans are hitting the road in recreational vehicles. CBS News reported that sales this year top half a million units — the highest in nearly four decades. (To view a video click here or scroll to the right side of the RVBUSINESS.com home page.)

Part of northern Indiana is the birthplace for 85% of all the RVs in this country. And they can't seem to build them fast enough.

The lots at Jayco Inc., a subsidiary of Thor Industries Inc., are lined with all kinds of RVs selling for \$15,000 on up.

CBS News opted for the cavernous luxury of the Entegra model with Thor President and CEO Bob Martin. On board there are couches, cabinets, a fridge, a fireplace — and more.

"People love to travel with their own bedding," said Martin. "Their own linens, their own showers."

During the Great Recession, unemployment in this region was close to 20%. Today, it's 2%. Matt Lester was once laid off, but now he is a foreman.

"Things have loosened up a lot," Lester said. "We've come a long way in the industry. We really have."

A Jayco warehouse will soon need 400 more workers at starting salaries near \$50,000 a year. Nearby Elkhart, once down on its luck, is now high on the hog with a bustling downtown and a local KFC offering a \$150 hiring bonus.

For the full story and to view a video click here.



Retiree Rally 2018

Tallahassee, FL March 20 - 25, 2018



2018 Spring Break Beach Party!!!

From Linda & Dave Hennie, Rally Coordinators

Come on, guys and gals, grab your beach towels and sunscreen and join us for a beach party like you've seen before!

Friday afternoon at the 2018 Retiree Rally Annette and Fabian invite you to a crazy, happenin'. From beach blanket bingo to senior volley ball, from wet tee shirt contests to flamingo races, and much more the beach party will have something for everyone!

There will be tunes on the turntable and the dance floor will be open for those who can still twist! And, to top it all off, the ice cream social will bring us that frosty treat we all like so much.

So, don your best beach wear and join us in Tallahassee for the 2018 Retiree Rally and a Spring Break you will never forget!

We'll have fun, fun, fun.....til they take our walkers away!



Rally Confirmation Letters

Penny Ramlow, Registration Chair

Confirmation letters for those who have registered will go out in January. I am requesting on the letter that they email me to let me know if they got it.



FCRV Retiree Rally Choir

CALLING ALL VOICES! Sign up for the Retiree Rally Choir. Sign-up

sheets will be located in the registration area. Everyone is welcome, regardless of experience.

George Walters, Choir Director



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

Camping Today 5 January 2018



FCRV International Veterans Committee

By Ron Braley

I hope you all are safe and healthy with the strange weather and other things that have happened since we last met.

I have been looking forward to the Retiree Rally in Tallahassee, Florida in March. I have sent out requests for help, support, advice, or just a reply from every Veteran's organization listed in the Tallahassee area. I will keep you updated.

I have also started looking at several different areas of interest for the Campvention next summer in Virginia. Quantico has several tours available, and I will look at Norfolk as well. I will send out the requests to all the Veteran's organizations in the area after the first of the year.

I also heard from several friends that went to Branson for the Veteran's week program, and they said it was wonderful. I do need to clarify something about the registration for this event that is held every year. All registration needs to go to: America's Best Campground, 499 BUENA VISTA ROAD, BRANSON, MO 65616 PHONE: 800-671-4399 EMAIL: AMERICASBESTCAMPGROUND@GMAIL.COM "THIS IS NOT A FCRV FUNCTION"

We can discuss this at the Retiree Rally, and I will bring as much information as possible.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Memorial Ceremony

by Rev. Harold Braley

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

Send names to hbraley@outlook.com



Food Bank

We are coming to you in asking for aid and support of the local food bank in Tallahassee, FL in March, 2018. It would help them to be able to purchase more food with cash, but we will take all

gifts. Our FCRV family has always had an open heart to give to the area where we enjoy your rallies.

Love, Ashley & Gloria Taylor, Food Bank Chairs

Lap Robes



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

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

Door Prizes Needed



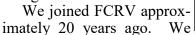
It's not too early to be gathering door prizes for the 2018 Retiree Rally. We all enjoy

getting a prize, and we hope you will help us by ensuring that we have plenty. Thanks for your help.



SC King and Queen 2018 Retiree K & Q Candidates

We are Roger and Cheryl Descoteaux. Roger and I have been married for 40 years, have two children and five grandchildren.





had been camping for quite a few years with our children when we learned about FCRV through a few long-standing members and after our first campout quickly realized that our camping experience would be enhanced greatly. We joined the Lamplighter chapter and the Golden Nutmeggers in Connecticut, and have held the offices of Secretary, President and Vice-President of the Lamplighters. We were very active in this chapter until our move to South Carolina.

We moved to South Carolina permanently (after having been snow birds for a couple of years) in 2014. We joined the South Carolina state and retiree organization and have become involved, currently holding the position of Vice-President of the Retirees and member at large at the State level. We have re-

tained our membership in Connecticut, and believe that holding dual membership is beneficial to both organizations. We are the South Carolina king and queen. I am co-chairman of hospitality for the 2018 Campvention.

Our first retiree rally was in Canton, Texas. Being new to the rally, many of you may not know who we are, but I believe quite a few of you will remember the couple that had 3 couples (6 adults) in our motorhome. We all had such a wonderful time, especially Roger and I, that we have decided that this rally is one we do not ever want to miss.

Roger enjoys camping, traveling, motorcycle riding, playing guitar, walking and hiking. Cheryl enjoys camping, crocheting, volunteering, and gardening.

We hope to be taking an extended road trip in 2018 and will spread the word about FCRV wherever we go in the hope of increasing our membership.



Campvention 2018

July 9 - 13, 2018

The Meadow Event Park Doswell, Virginia

Campvention Parking Info



All parking pedestals have 50-amp service only

Those requiring 30/20 amp service bring an adapter for their unit



Quilt, Afghan, & Paintings Raffle

Correction

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

Campvention 2018 Chairmen Message



By Marjory & Don Bates

We are excited. Great entertainment has been scheduled, and this information is included in this issue of Camping Today. We hope you all plan on attending the 2018 International FCRV Campvention in Doswell, Virginia on July 9-13.

Information and the sign-up form for renting golf carts are in this Camping Today.

Please join us in Doswell and make this one of the best Campventions ever. We have planned many activities for your enjoyment and interest. and there are many places to visit in this part of our country.



Campvention 2018 Hospitalities Info

By LaNelle & Leon Ishmael, chairs

2017 is almost behind us, and before we know it, we will be headed to Virginia for Campvention. Leon and I will be wintering in Florida and won't be receiving our mail on a timely basis so please email or call

for your hospitality forms. We want to have a lot to give everyone a chance to meet and greet. Email is lanelleishmael@yahoo.com Phone: Leon: 515-520-7958, LaNelle: 803-341-2470

'Let Us Entertain You'

Campvention 2018 Entertainment Chairs George & Debbie Walters are prepared to entertain you in Doswell, Virginia in July as they announce the Campvention entertainment schedule.



The Virginians Barbershop Chorus will be onstage Monday night July 9. The Virginians have celebrated over 65 years as a barbershop chorus and is one of the oldest continuous singing groups in the Richmond area. Its mission is to provide wholesome, top-quality musicianship, combined with enthusiastic showmanship for a variety of gatherings, including national conventions, local civic and

fraternal meetings, banquets, and fund raising events. Their repertoire includes traditional barbershop favorites, patriotic, and contemporary music enhanced with precision choreography and costuming. Learn more about them at

http://www.virginians.org/meet-the-virginians.html. Or, better yet, get a sneak preview at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ReuiBCVClg

After a full day of activities on Tuesday, settle back and enjoy lots of fun with **Greg Claassen-Ventriloquist**. Greg Claassen can make just about anything talk...and that's exactly what he's been doing with his ventriloquist act over the last 30 years. Greg has established a reputation for unfailing audience rapport. It's hysterical fun once Greg's 'friends' are unleashed on stage. Greg is back after a very entertaining at Campvention 2016 in Oklahoma City. So many attendees told George Walters that they wanted to see him again. You'll get your chance in Doswell in July. Visit Greg's website at https://www.gregclaassen.com/meet-greg. Get a sneak preview of Greg at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jscVqf DjuQ.



Dal Dodson as "dummy" at Campvention 2016



Wednesday night will be the traditional **Teen Queen & Teen King contest**, which is always a high-point of Campvention week. Enjoy our teens.

Thursday night, the Tennessee award-winning family trio **Sunday Drive** will share their family harmony and humor with us. 'Their mission is to strive to positively influence the world through their music, to bring JOY by having light hearted family fun, to be a LIGHT to shine it for the world to see, to show LOVE and share it in all they do, to live LIFE as disciples of Christ. Sunday Drive's goal is to share their talents and faith to uplift the name of Jesus.' Visit them at https://sundaydriveband.com/home. Visit www.YouTube.com and ch



them at https://sundaydriveband.com/home. Visit www.YouTube.com and check out the various Sunday Drive videos.



As Campvention 2018 winds down on Friday night, the 55 piece **Hanover Concert Band** will entertain with light music as well as selections from their 4th of July concert. The band was founded in 1989 as a group of dedicated amateur musicians who meet regularly throughout the year to play and perform concert band music.

The band is a community band and performs throughout Hanover County and the greater Richmond metro area as the 'Musical Ambassadors of Hanover County'. Visit http://hanoverconcertband.org/ to learn about this local concert band that will entertain attendees at the close of Campvention 2018.

'Let Us Entertain You' in Doswell, Virginia in July!



REGION 7 UPDATE

by Camy Hicks, Regional Dir. (Ont., Que., NB., NS.)



As I write to you, Region 7 is experiencing all the winter weather which we never saw for the past 4-5 years. Hope all the snow-lovers out there are enjoying all the activities that go with this season.

Well, plans are moving forward to finalize the actual location for Campvention 2020 here in south-

ern Ontario but, at this time, we have no further news to pass along. Other than the great effort and final result that Canada always puts on for our guests!!

However, I can tell you all the location for Regional 2018 will be Brigden, a small town close to the Michigan border, hoping to encourage more visitors to make the short trip from at least the border states. This is expected to be a laid-back event, highlighting hospitalities, day trips, and time to visit.

Our Region continues to meet during the noncamping months for chapter meetings, Association meetings, plans for upcoming RV shows starting in February, and just plain socializing. This has always been the backbone of a strong organization.

Regards to our friends out there, and continued gratitude that Hugh urged me agree to join this organization all those years ago. See you here in 2018 and 2020!







Bill and Carolyn Grubb of Martinsville, PA celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary December 24th, 2017. They are longtime members of the Spring Shanty Shakers and have volunteered for many jobs in PA FCRV over the years including all the PA Campventions. Congratulations may be sent to demigrubb04gmail.com.

PAGODA RAMBLERS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS AND CONSERVATION AWARD

By Jean Skillman

The Pagoda Rambler Chapter of FCRV celebrated their 50th anniversary in November at a restaurant in East Reading, PA. The group was formed in 1967 by 25



families who enjoyed camping together once a month at various campgrounds. Eight families continue that tradition today and welcome new families.

The group also celebrated their earning of Family



Camppers & RVers National Conservation Award for Best Chapter Project. The award was accepted at FCRV's National Campvention last July in Lima, Ohio by Judy and Carl Drexler, PA FCRV Conservation Directors and members of the

chapter. Drexlers in turn presented the plaque to Pagoda Ramblers President, Jack Skillman at the November celebration.

The chapter has helped organize the annual Blue Marsh Lake cleanup for 35 years at Leesburg, PA. They help park rangers with Earth Day cleanup each April by planting trees and clearing trails. The club

also is in charge of packing snack bags and preparing lunch of donated food for the 500 volunteers. Club members say they enjoy the camaraderie and satisfaction of the work.

BRANDT AND COUCH TRIPLETS ARE GROWING UP

It seems unlikely that FCRV would have 2 families with triplets at the same time, but if you have been to a Campvention since 2000 you might remember seeing the Brandt triplets and the Couch triplets with their families. Here are updates on both.



Brandt Family : (I to r) C.J., Erin, Granddad Ray, Andrew, Liz, Dad, Charles, Mom, Kim

Charles Brandt of Butler, PA grew up in NCHA / FCRV. Wife, Kim adapted quickly and eventually was elected to the Board of Trustees as National Corresponding Secretary and father-in-law, Ray Brandt was a past National Treasurer (Comptroller). Older sister, Elizabeth was surprised and happy to learn that she would have two brothers and a

sister. Erin, Charles Jr. (C.J), and Andrew were born December 4, 2001.

The Brandt triplets made their first appearance at the Executive Board meeting at age 2 months at Indianapolis. Mom, Kim who was Recording Secretary missed the December Trustees conference call because she went into labor the same night. Barb Turner nicknamed them



Steeler Fans

the "Trustees Triplets." Today the Brandt triplets are sophomores at Knoch High School in Saxonburg, PA. They all love camping and are active in their church. They plan to spend their 16th year getting jobs and learning to drive.

Charles Jr. is in the Boy Scouts working toward becoming an Eagle Scout. He sings in the school's elite Chamber Singers Ensemble and plays bass drum in the marching band.



Andrew is also in the Boy Scouts working toward Eagle Scout. He plays the tenor Saxophone in the concert and marching bands. He is also on the school's Speech and Debate team.

Erin is in the Color Guard for Marching Band and is also attending the Culinary Arts program at the District Vo-Tech School.



Older sibling, Liz is a junior at Slippery Rock University and is majoring in Music Therapy with a minor in Psychology.

photos provided by Kim Brandt

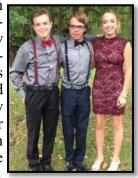
The Ohio Triplets Molly, Gary, and Patrick Couch



The Couch triplets, Molly, Gary, and Patrick, were born December 11, 1999, 14 weeks early. Parents Kevin & Dina Couch said, "They have overcome so many hurdles and obstacles, and

each step is truly a blessing. We are excited to see what their future holds because we have witnessed miracles and believe that they can do anything they set their hearts and heads to. We have seen it every step of their lives. God is Good!"

The triplets are all active in the church with the youth. Patrick is a youth leader there. Gary is busy with jazz band and a local community band. Molly is doing softball year-round and weight and core training. They all go to R.G. Drage Career Technical Center and are all on the honor roll at their home school, Tuslaw High School.



Molly and Gary are ranked 14th in their class. They love to camp and be with family. They play cards and video games.

Gary was a golfer on his high school golf team as



well as a percussionist in the high school band. He has been accepted at Kent State University and will be majoring in Music Technology. He will be studying the production side of it. He hopes to write and produce music.

Patrick works for Timken Company in the machining area. He hopes to get an Associate Degree in engineering for which Timken will pay a portion of his college.





Molly found her niche on the softball diamond. She is in the DEP portion of the United States Air Force. She hopes to get a Physical Medicine job and while in the service to work toward either an Athletic Training or Physical Therapy

degree. Both programs will require a Master's Degree.

As Molly, Patrick, and Gary prepare to graduate from high school in 2018 and enter the next chapter of their lives, some of you might remember them at one



of the youth activities at Campvention 2010. Very wish them success in their chosen fields.

photos by Dina Couch & Barb Turner

FCRV Activities

2017 Kentucky Colonels Campout at Lake Cumberland.



The park is undergoing major renovations in 2018 and will be closed until completed. A new location is being sought for the annual Thanksgiving campout.

Winter Texans



FCRV Winter Texan group gathered donations at their Christmas party of \$227 and several containers of food. Treasurer, Chuck Kutz announced the results. Donation made to Hidalgo Food Bank.

Tents for Troops

'Tents for Troops' Inviting End-of-Year Donations

Courtesy of RV Business

Tents for Troops invites companies planning on doing some charitable giving at year's end to consider their organization. According to a press release, Tents for Troops, established in 2008, provides free RV and tents sites to active-duty military and their families nationwide.

Tents for troops is starting to gain steam with its RV loaner program as well, according to founder Charlie Curry.

"The organization is seeking donations of any size," he said. "RV donations are always needed and welcomed in all areas of the country."

Tents for Troops is a 501c3 and significant tax advantages may be available to donating companies as well.

To learn more about the Tents for Troops program, visit tentsfortroops.org. Further information is also available by calling 503-425-9105 or see http://tentsfortroops.org.

National Wildlife



By Joanie Stone, National Wildlife Director

I wish to thank all of you have given to our FCRV Wildlife Program since July 2017.

Even though we didn't advertise to have a silent auction at National some people brought items so we had one with items donated. Here are the donations to the program:

\$144.00 silent auction 125.00 Hard Hat Luncheon 287.00 Teens 25.00 Your Cause LLC Trustees

Total of \$581.00

Thanks again everyone for your support. Money received is invested to promote helping preserving wildlife so our future generations to enjoy!

National Wildlife Grants

By Joanie Stone, National Wildlife Director

It is time to be thinking about writing a National Wildlife Grant. All grant applications must be for preserving wildlife or their habitat. Your grant app must be for a non profit organization. You must complete the form on our website with the necessary backup. You must have a letter on the organizationals letterhead signed by the person in charge. All materials must be sent to, me by May 30, 2018.



SUSPENDED: Chapter Scrapbooks and St/Prov Photo Books

In the last 4-5 years, we have had very low participation in these programs: Chapter Adult and Teen Scrapbook Contests and the State/Provincial Photo Book Contest. We recommended to the Trustees and proposed that these contests be discontinued.

In the November 2017 issue of CAMPING TO-DAY, there was an article about the Adult Chapter Scrapbook winner, the Roaming Buffaloes of North Dakota. Also stated in that article was the fact that the Scrapbook Contests and Photo Book Contest were discontinued. THESE CONTESTS HAVE NOT BEEN DISCONTINUED!

For the next year starting with the month that this article is published in CAMPING TODAY, these contests are "suspended" for one year. The Trustees advised me on Nov. 30, 2017 that they voted to "suspend" the Chapter Scrapbook Contests and the Photo Book Contest for one (1) year.

What we need now is YOUR input, individuals or chapters, whether we should continue the contests in a year's time, or discontinue them. Your input will be very important for the Trustees to make a decision

at the end of the year. Therefore, these contests <u>will</u> **not** be held at the 2018 Campvention in Virginia.

Please direct your input to us, and a copy to our Vice President of National Programs, George Walters. We will answer your inquiry as quickly as possible.

Thank you

Don and Shirley MacKenzie, National Historian onecedarjunction@gmail.com Phone – 540-967-9654

George Walters, Vice President
National FCRV Programs
Fcrvprogvp@aol.com



NPS is Offering Four Admission-Free Days for '18

Courtesy of RV Business

The National Park Service (NPS) announced that the public will be invited to experience all national parks, without entrance fees, on four days in 2018.

According to a press release, the four entrance fee -free days for 2018 will be:

- ◆ Jan. 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- ◆ April 21 First Day of National Park Week
- ◆ Sept. 22 National Public Lands Day
- ♦ Nov. 11 Veterans Day

"National parks connect all of us with our country's amazing nature, culture and history," said National Park Service Deputy Director Michael T. Reynolds. "The days that we designate as fee-free for national parks mark opportunities for the public to participate in service projects, enjoy ranger-led programs, or just spend time with family and friends exploring these diverse and special places. We hope that these fee-free days offer visitors an extra incentive to enjoy their national parks in 2018."

Normally, 118 of the 417 national parks charge an entrance fee. The other 299 national parks do not have entrance fees. The entrance fee waiver for the fee-free days does not cover amenity or user fees for activities such as camping, boat launches, transportation or special tours.

The annual \$80 America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass allows unlimited entrance to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including all national parks that charge an

entrance fee. There are also free or discounted passes available for senior citizens, current members of the military, families of fourth grade students and disabled citizens.

Other federal land management agencies offering their own fee-free days in 2018 include the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service and Army Corps of Engineers.

The National Park System includes more than 84 million acres and is comprised of 417 sites, including national parks, national historical parks, national monuments, national recreation areas, national battle-fields and national seashores. There is at least one national park in every state.

Last year, 331 million people visited national parks spending \$18.4 billion, which supported 318,000 jobs across the country and had a \$35 billion impact on the U.S. economy.

FIND YOUR OWN BEAT IN MEMPHIS

Courtesy of Memphis Travel.com



Graceland's new 200,000 square foot state of the art Entertainment and Exhibit Center Complex houses the world's largest Elvis museum

Where in world can you visit the home of the King of Rock n' Roll, stand in the recording studio that birthed the Million Dollar Quartet, tour the studio that pioneered the way for musicians of all backgrounds and color to record together, and visit the working studio of the GRAMMY winning producer behind a

Bruno Mars hit song? -- Only in Memphis.

But Memphis is so much more than the music & history that put it on the map, it's where big-city energy has a hometown feel, do-it-yourself enterprise shows a collaborative spirit, and neighborhood pride meets metropolitan sophistication. It's a city where unexpected combinations empower individuals to make their mark and create their own one-of-a-kind experiences.

Memphis offers more than 60 tourist attractions where everyone can find their own beat. From musical attractions, such as Beale Street, Graceland and Sun Studio, to family friendly destinations, like the

Children's Museum of Memphis and Memphis Zoo, to historical and cultural attractions, like the National Civil Rights Museum and the Pink Palace Museum, Memphis has something that appeals to every traveler.

Senior Travel Writer Offering Unique Look At Attractions

By Ariel Hakim, Courtesy of Akron Beacon

MESA, Arizona — Nan Miller has been writing about camping and RVing since the late 1980s, when she got her start at the West Side Leader, and she's still going.

Today, Miller, 71, writes a successful travel blog at nanmillertimes.com, which features photographs by her husband, Earl Miller.



She retired from her career as a travel writer about 10 years ago, but in 2012, she began writing a newsletter to a group of friends who wanted to stay informed on the couple's travels. In 2014, those articles became a website, and new content is being added weekly.

About a year ago, MotorHome magazine featured the Millers in a list of 10 RVers with interesting hobbies, and since anyone can sign up, readership jumped to more than 250. The site gets about 700 unique hits a week these days, said Miller.

Miller said operating the site, which is ad-free, is a way for the couple to give back.

"I know some of these people aren't going to travel to these places — if I can give them some pleasure of going through these places that we've so much enjoyed, I'll do it," she said.

Recently, Miller posted writings on some lesser-known attractions in Colorado Springs, such as the Michael Garman Gallery and Museum. In that post, she delves into the artist's history and process that led to the creation of Magic Town, a sculpted 3,000-square-foot miniature city with magical effects. Several of her husband's photographs provide visuals of the tiny cityscape.

Much of what the couple covers isn't in travel guides, she added.

"We literally have our own guidebooks from these trips," she said.

Because the articles are lengthy and she doesn't want to overwhelm her readers, she only publishes

one per week, she said.

She anticipates an article on Route 66 she's scheduled to go live Dec. 11 being popular, she said. Readers should enjoy information about early restaurant franchises and the first drive-in movie theaters in that post, she said.

Following that, she has planned a series of 20 articles on attractions in Northeast Ohio, in which she'll delve into more than 40 sites. A small taste of what's on the docket: the Canton Classic Car Museum, Gnadenhutten Village and the Troll Hole Museum and Feline Historical Museum in Alliance.

Miller also is working on pieces about Hale Farm & Village, the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, Akron's art scene and more.

All are places the couple visited in August and September.

While in Ohio, Miller revisited where she got her start. Known then as Nancy Baren Miller, she began working as a freelance writer for the West Side Leader in 1989, writing a regular column on camping and RVing for a few years.

"I'd always heard you're supposed to write about what you know. I know about RVing. We've been doing it since 1975," she said.

Between 1989 and 2007, she had more than 500 articles published in more than 30 newspapers and magazines, she said. For five years, she was the RV columnist for Travel America magazine, she added. She said she also won several regional and national awards for her writing, including for a piece she wrote for the Leader on Bryce Canyon, which took second in Outdoor Recreational Writing, Newspaper in 1992 in a contest run by Outdoor Writers of America.

Although Miller retired in 2007, she said she works full time on "Nan Miller Times" while she's on the road.

Some nights when she gets back to the motorhome, she has 30 or 40 pages of notes, she said. She does additional research on each site they visit and usually spends eight to 10 hours writing each article, she noted.

The site contains more than 120 articles and 3,000 photos.

Her personal favorite is about Bobbie the Wonder Dog, one of Silverton, Oregon's most famous citizens, which was posted in July of 2015.

"Anything having to do with animals are some of my favorite attractions," she said.

Another favorite, on the Alaska Sea Life Center in Seward, was posted in April of this year. It's the state's only aquarium, she said.

The Millers' permanent home is in Mesa, Arizona,

but they usually spend May through October on the road with their cat, Pierre, she said.

The couple, who recently celebrated 47 years of marriage, has traveled to every continent and all 50 U.S. states.

Next year, the Millers plan to visit Nebraska, South Dakota and Colorado. They may also make stops in Montana and Wyoming, she said.



2018 Jacksonville RV MegaShow Set for Feb. 8 - 11

Dateline: Jacksonville, Fla. (Dec. 4, 2017) Who: The six area recreational vehicle dealers in Northeast Florida, Florida RV Trade Association District 6, including Participating dealers include Campers Inn (Jacksonville), Camping World RV Sales (Jacksonville), Dick Gore's RV World (Jacksonville), General RV Center (Orange Park), Ocean Grove RV Supercenter (St. Augustine) and Travelcamp (Jacksonville)

What: 2018 Jacksonville RV MegaShow Where: Jacksonville Equestrian Center, 13611 Normandy Blvd.

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8 through Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018

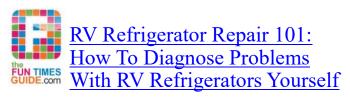
Details:

More than 400 new recreational vehicles of all types, including motor homes, travel trailers, fifthwheels and tent campers, will be on display and manufacturer's representatives will also be offering special incentives for RV purchases

Regular admission is \$8 for adults and children 12 years or younger are admitted free. All active and retired military and first-responders who attend will receive half-off the regular admission price throughout the show. On Thursday, Feb. 9, the opening day of the show, all seniors will receive half-price admission

Parking is free at the equestrian center.

Door Prize will be a \$250 Gift Card awarded to a guest as a door prize each day of the show Jacksonville author Linda Segall will sell and sign copies of her new book *Don't Back into the Palm Tree! Real Life Lessons for New and Wannabe RVers* from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 10



By Curtis

RV refrigerator not cooling? I can help you find the problem! I'm going to walk you through the steps of DIY RV refrigerator repair. Then, if it still doesn't work, I'll let you know when it's time to throw in the towel and call a professional to fix your RV fridge. Whether you have a Norcold refrigerator, a Dometic refrigerator, or some other RV refrigerator... I can help!

Read More



Write It Off? Sure

Many people wonder if their RV can be used as a write off. RVs these days can cost you as much, if not more than, some homes. The average cost for a Class A motorhome is now reaching up into the \$100,000+ range. As a buyer you may want to think about some of these options to make your RV (or a portion of it) a tax deduction in every way you can.

Read more HERE.

RV Winter Tips For Full-Timers

As the warm summer days give way to more cool, crisp months it's time to start thinking about preparing your RV for winter. Even if you are staying in an area that stays pretty balmy throughout the year, you can't really depend on that – look at the past few winters in Florida and California.

Read more HERE.



THIS'N THAT

- Members of Family Motor Coach have voted to accept towable RV owners to become members.
 The exclusive to motorhome group founded 53 years ago dropped from 140,000 members in 2009 to 74,000 today.
- Former full time RVers, Cindy and John Belt kept a cost comparison log for yearly expenses and found that home living expenses were equal for them.
- The Recreational Vehicle Industry Association continues to monitor legislation affecting RVers and the industry.
- Camping World is offering 'Home Delivery' that lets you shop online for an RV and have it delivered to your driveway. A sales person makes contact before the sale.



DOMETIC WINS READER'S CHOICE AWARDS

ELKHART, Ind. – Dometic is honored to win seven Reader's Choice Awards from Trailer Life and MotorHome magazines, the most highly awarded company in the product areas it is represented.

Trey Miller, Senior Director of Marketing—Americas, commented, "Dometic provides smart solutions, reliable products with outstanding designs and this is very evident from the results of the awards. We are diligent to obtain extensive customer feedback at the beginning of any product development or innovation project we undertake to ensure we meet the consumer's needs when living mobile.

Dometic received six Gold first-place awards, sweeping the three categories representing the main product lines, and one Silver second-place award.

Gold

Awnings— Trailer Life Awnings— MotorHome Refrigerators— Trailer Life Refrigerators— MotorHome Toilets— Trailer Life Toilets— MotorHome

Silver Cleaning Products-- MotorHome Miller stated, "Dometic is either the leader or second place in nearly 80 percent of the products we manufacture around the world and each of the 6500+ team members works hard every day to make sure this continues."

Products

Beanko

Designed by a busy mom, this mobile changing station is the perfect solution for parents who are on-the-go. Whether you're traveling on a

plane, train or hitting the road for a long drive, every day should be filled with fun, lots of laughs, and love — not an endless search for where to change baby that is clean and sanitary! Simply change, stow and go!

Portable and a game-changer for parents everywhere, the Beanko features a foldable wedge design which maximizes space in car bucket seats to keep baby on a flat surface, making it easy to change diapers and clothing! The padded borders keep baby's



head safe from car seat base, seat belt buckles and center console. Plus, to keep baby entertained, the Beanko features a tablet viewer and toy loops! Simply slip in an iPad miniTM, tablet or phone in

the tablet viewer, or attach their favorite toy to keep baby engaged

Not just for diaper changes, the detachable changing pad also doubles as a tummy-time mat for indoor or outdoor use once cleaned. In addition, the Beanko makes it a breeze to organize baby's necessities. The built-in baby wipe holder works for most brands and a pocket holds up to 8 diapers of any size. As baby continues to grow into their toddler years, the changing pad can be removed and placed behind the front seats for additional storage....making it an essential back seat organizer! To learn more, visit https://beanko.com/.

STREAMLIGHT® INTRODUCES DUALIE® RECHARGEABLE MAGNET

Dual-Function Rechargeable Light is Intrinsically Safe; Permits Hands-Free Use

EAGLEVILLE, PA,

Streamlight[®] Inc., a leading provider of high-performance lighting, introduced the Dualie[®]Rechargeable Magnet, a lithium ion battery-powered rechargeable



LED flashlight that is safety rated for use in Division 1 environments. The new dual-function light features both a forward-facing spot beam and side-facing flood light for use individually or simultaneously for optimizing navigation and eliminating blind spots. The new light also can be used hands free through the use of integrated magnets that grab onto steel surfaces.

"Industrial technicians, first responders and many



other workers rely on their flashlights to perform safely under the most hazardous conditions," said Streamlight Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Michael F. Dineen. "The Dualie Rechargeable Magnet gives them that assurance, whether

they are working in confined spaces, industrial settings or emergency scenes where flammable substances may be present. Professionals also will appreciate the light's flexible options, whether using it for close-up inspections or for illuminating work areas. And combining both the spot and flood beams can help you see what's ahead and around you so you can avoid slips, trips and falls."

The Dualie Rechargeable Magnet features opposing switches for easy, one-handed beam operation. It includes an integrated, non-protruding, spring-loaded belt clip that conforms to the light's body, while easily grabbing onto shirts, pockets and other gear for hands-free use. Two integrated magnets, one on the top of the clip and the other on its tail end, provide easy attachment to metal surfaces for hands-free lighting.

The new light features three output modes. Its LED spot beam enables technicians to illuminate objects at a distance, such as overhead pipes or utilities, while its LED flood beam is designed for close-up work. The two beams also can be used together to create an uninterrupted light pattern that delivers 275 lumens for enhanced safety.

Featuring two white power LEDs, the light's spot beam features a smooth parabolic reflector for a tight beam with optimum peripheral illumination, while the flood beam produces a wide, soft beam for illuminating work areas. In spot mode, the light delivers 180 lumens, 11,500 candela and a 171-meter beam distance; in flood mode, it offers 105 lumens, 60 candela and an 18-meter beam distance. When used together, the two intersecting beams provide 275 lumens.

Run times for the Dualie Rechargeable Magnet are 7.25 hours for spot mode, 13.5 hours for flood mode, and 5.5 hours when the beams are combined.

The new light is powered by a 2600 mAh lithium ion battery that fully recharges in eight hours in a convenient charging base. Fabricated from an impact and chemical-resistant Engineered Polymer resin that is virtually indestructible and non-conductive, it features a body with a rocky stipple texture for a sure grip and maximum hand comfort. The light measures 7.5 inches long and weighs 7.09 ounces.

The Dualie Rechargeable Magnet is IP67-rated for dust-tight and waterproof operation to one meter for 30 minutes, and is impact-resistant tested to 2 meters. It has an operating temperature range of -20°F to +130°F, permitting usage under a wide variety of weather conditions.

The new light has an MSRP that ranges from \$100 -\$125, depending on the configuration, and is available in high visibility yellow or black. It is available with an optional rubber helmet or mounting clip for use with hard hats, and comes with Streamlight's Limited Lifetime Warranty.



The Winegard ConnecT WF1 and 4G1



The Winegard ConnecT WF1 and 4G1 turn 'WiFi Dead Zones' into entertainment zones with a secure connection at the fastest speed available. Keep mobile devices, media players, and computers con-

nected while you travel. Plus, the 4G1 links to nationwide 4G LTE coverage for reliable, unin-

terrupted coverage nearly everywhere.

MIMO technology gives you **improved range of transmission** in places with a large concentration of connected devices such as RV parks, rallies, and sporting events.

Farewells

DAVID EAST, PAST VIRGINIA STATE DIRECTOR



David (Dave) East, 90, past Virginia State Director, of Tidewater, Virginia passed away December 18 following a lingering illness with his family by his side. David and his wife, Betty who passed away last year were active membership builders in Virginia for many years. They formed two chapters in the Tidewater area and were Field Directors before becoming NCHA/FCRV State Director from 1992 – 2009. They were also editors of the "Old Dominion Camp Talk." They set up an FCRV booth at many dealer shows in the Virginia Beach area. Dave and Betty were honored with an FCRV Award of Merit in 1999. They were members of the Tidewater Wheelers Chapter. They were on the Steering Committees of the Campventions held in the Southeast Region.



David East was a career Navy officer having served in World War II, Korea, and Viet Nam. He retired after 2 decades as a Sr.Chief Petty Officer. He then went to work for and retired from Virginia Chemicals, all the while being an active member of the community. He served as a volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America

even after his children were grown. He was awarded the Silver Beaver Award from the B. S. A. National Council.

His passions were family and camping. Until the past few years Dave could be found travelling the nation with his wife, Betty by his side. As the children

went off on their own the camping trailers got bigger and bigger.

Memories of Dave and Betty East

By Don & Shirley Mackinzie



Dave and Betty East were among the first people we met when we moved back to Virginia in 1986. They were instantly helpful, and let everyone know that we had moved here from Maryland, and were ready to go to work and volunteer for any-

thing. We have enjoyed the Virginia people so very much over the years, and it was due mainly to Dave and Betty.

Dave and Betty East served as Field Directors, District Directors, and finally as State Director from about 1993 until 2009. They were well liked and Betty had a mild sweet manner, but stern when necessary. Dave, well, what can I say about loveable Dave. The well known "Grouch" had this grouchy look on his face until someone said something to crack him up. And my Don could do that. The four of us became very close and during the last 15-20 years, he was like a grandpa, so I nick named him "My Grandpa." He would get this big grin on his face when I called him that. We had some wonderful times with them, and some hectic times as well. For several campouts that were in the western part of the state, they would camp out in our driveway (they lived in the eastern part of Virginia), and then we would travel together to the campout destination. One time they called and said they were coming up, and we said, "Sure, come on up." They arrived at our house, set up in our driveway, and came in and said, "You don't look like you are ready to go camping tomorrow." We said we weren't going until next Seems they got their dates mixed up!

Another time, the hurricane coming up the coast drove them inland to our house!! Great times? You bet!

When we attended Executive Board meetings and Dave and Betty could not go, they ask us to take notes for them. They used to comment that it was like they were sitting in the room with everyone, and could visualize everything from my transcribed notes. At Executive Board meetings Dave would sit listening until he could no longer stand saying nothing about a subject being discussed, of which he had a

strong opinion. He would get up and state his case, sometimes very emotional, and then sit down. The steam was still coming out of his ears. Dave could

articulate on a subject like no one we have ever heard. He stated his case and gave solutions. Most people agreed with him.

Dave and Betty used to say that they did not think having a Campvention in Virginia was a good idea,



because we did not have the people to work. With the regions now hosting campventions, we believe that they would have looked forward to it at The Meadow Event Park in Doswell, Virginia.

In the last year Dave would get on the internet and email his FCRV friends, tell what was happening with him, and sign off as "The Old Grouch." How can you beat that sense of humor. He loved getting emails from his friends in the last couple of years. He missed Betty so much.

We have had very good friends over the years in FCRV and in our personal lives, but none can top the great relationship we had with Dave and Betty. They were a great couple, and their family and all of their friends will certainly miss them. God Bless you Dave, and now you are with your beloved Betty again! They are singing and dancing in Heaven!

Ed Kibbler said, "The Easts were truly dedicated to NCHA/FCRV. Jean and I were fortunate to be associated with them for many years." Shirley and Don MacKenzie said, "Dave and Betty carried Virginia FCRV to bigger and better times." Barb Turner said, "Both Dave and Betty had a special place in our hearts. Dave had nick-names for his friends and he was known as the "Old Grouch" and he called Betty the "Old Warrior."

His family said, "Dad left a legacy of invaluable life lessons – hard work, commitment, and overwhelming love for his family and country. He was a devoted father and friend and his love and support will be truly missed."

Dave East is survived by 5 children – Virginia, David, Elizabeth, Bill, and Richard and their spouses plus 15 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to 5620 Weslyan Drive, Viginia Beach, VA 23455 or email mrbill419@gmail.com.

Harry Samalot Roman, 12-10-17, Cleveland, Ohio, founder of Hispanic Campers Chapter, grandfather of past Miss Ohio, Yolanda Cruz.

Richard Dickerson, 12-29-17, Tamworth, Ontario, Glowing Embers Chapter.

Bob Bassett, 81, Colorado, Road Runners

Edd Dimock, Colorado, Outlaws and Colorado Eagles, member since 1993

Steve Sinn, 76, Colorado, Rolling Springs

Vicki Brunner, 62, Colorado, Oops, member since 1996

Hartley Bud Farnum, 87, Colorado Timberliners and Colorado Legislative Director, member since 1967.





JANUARY

January 5-7, 2018 Greensboro RV Show Greensboro N.C.

January 12-15, 2018 - NCFCRV Winter Board Meeting

Holiday Sands North, Myrtle Beach S.C. Phone for Reservations: 843-448-1091 - Tell them you are with FCRV

January 17-21, 2018 – Florida RV SuperShow. Tampa, FL

January 19, 2018 - Charlotte RV Show Charlotte N.C.

MARCH

March 20-25, 2018 - FCRV Retiree Rally. Tallahassee, FL

JULY

July 9-13,2018 - FCRV Campvention

The Meadow Event Park, Doswell, Virginia

This is your magazine and we welcome articles on milestones our members have reached, community service or recognition received or activities that chapters have had or taken part in.

Send them to: d johnston01@msn.com





47th INTERNATIONAL RETIREE RALLY NORTH FLORIDA FAIRGROUNDS 441 PAUL RUSSELL ROAD, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301

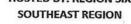
EARLY DAYS: MARCH 16TH – MARCH 19TH
RALLY DAYS: MARCH 20TH – MARCH 25TH

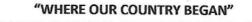


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RESERVED FOR WHEELCHAIRS, WALKERS, OR THOSE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY PROBLEMS:					
GUEST ARE WELCOME:					
Guests/Non-FCRV members a	re welcome. They may be	in their own unit or with yo	ou. Have the	em complete a	
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FEES:					
EARLY BIRD PARKING (MARCH	16 – 19): FEE IS \$25 PER N	GHT WITH WATER AND ELEC	CTRIC. 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.					
	Pre-registrat	ion (paid in advance in ful	- 12 C	the Gate	
Two people in a unit:		\$225.00		\$250.00	
Single person in a unit:		\$195.00		\$220.00	
Camp Pass (2 people or second		\$125.00		\$150.00	
Camp Pass (1 person or extra		\$ 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 .					

58th ANNUAL FAMILY CAMPERS & RVers CAMPVENTION

HOSTED BY: REGION SIX





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



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