

# CAMPING TODAY®



October 2018



For 10 years Kip & Jan Cushing, WI, have been part of a Hot Air Balloon crew. Read all about it.....**Page 13**

Time for nomination for National Trustee positions.....**Page 8**

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Anew website is announced

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Sign up and a percentage of purchase goes to FCRV

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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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Office email: [fcrvnat@verizon.net](mailto:fcrvnat@verizon.net)

All articles/information for Camping Today should be sent to  
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**PLEASE SEND ARTICLES TO VICKIE, TOO.**

**New Email**



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# From the President - Shari Weber



Like last year, September has brought some severe storms. On Facebook we heard from many of our members in North and South Carolina who are safe. We are thankful for the safety of those folks. However, there are indeed many people in need of assistance and prayers. I hope all residents in the hurricane's path are putting their lives back in order.

This month has brought major changes for Craig & I. After 24 ½ years of owning Geneseo Campground, we sold the campground on September 4<sup>th</sup>. We have spent the past several months downsizing to living in our 40' motorhome. I must say while a lot of things went to Salvation Army, the local food pantry, Goodwill and were sold in garage sales or letgo, there are some things that are just impossible to part with. We do have a small storage locker in addition to the motorhome. Craig & I are looking forward to having the freedom to attend campouts together again.

## **National Royalty**

Have you extended an invitation to our Teen Queen, Katie Kurburski from Michigan or Teen King Blake Burnette from Kansas? They are enthusiastic and willing to attend campouts if their school and work schedules allow. Our Retiree King & Queen, Bill and Penny Ramlow are also available to attend campouts. Please feel free to invite any of these people to your events.

## **Election**

We are in the period where we are looking for individuals to run for national Trustee positions. The positions up for election in 2019 are Vice President Planning and Development, Comptroller and Vice President Operations. Please let any trustee, state/provincial or regional director know if you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Trustee. The chairperson of the nominating committee is Shirley MacKenzie and you can contact her as well with suggestions for the Trustee positions. Other members of the nominating committee include Ron Braley, Veteran Program Director from Ohio, Lawrence Phillips, Texas State Director from Texas, Carl Wood, Scholarship Director from Ontario. Contact your state/provincial Director to get contact information. The nomination period closes November 30, 2018.

## **Membership**

In the north we are in the fall season of camping and have only another month of camping left before we winterize our campers. In the south you are gearing up for camping season as the temperatures become more tolerable. Are you extending an invitation to new members? Remember we have the introductory membership which adds six months to the purchase of a new membership. Also remember to put the best foot forward in planning your campout. The fun you have while camping will be contagious and people will want to join in. While planning is important, meetings should be a very small part of regular campouts.

## **Executive Board positions**

I missed including this last month. There have been several changes within the executive board since campvention. Ed & Jane Alft, Teen Directors since 2010 have resigned. Dwight Bonnefield, Communication and Security Director since 2011 and Donnell Wilkes, CAMP Director since 2011 were not reappointed. All of these people have served our organization well in their respective positions. David & Rita Blair have accepted appointment to the position of Communication & Security Director and Dick & Kathy Buresh have accepted appointment to the position of CAMP Director.

In addition to the Teen Director position there are several other positions available on the executive board. Youth Director, Website Editor and Membership Director are all open positions. The descriptions of the responsibilities for these positions are in the field manual which is found at fcrv.org. If you or someone you know is interested in any of these positions please contact George Walters for the Teen & Youth positions and Scott Serbousek for the Website Editor and Membership Director positions. You can also contact any trustee who will forward to the appropriate person. If we all work together we can find qualified people for these positions. The work of our wonderful organization depends on volunteers with skills needed to carry out different functions. Please step up if you are willing to serve us in any of these positions.

## **Upcoming events**

Dal & Barb Dodson and their team are planning the retiree rally being held March 19 – 24, 2019. It will be in Houma LA. All are welcome. Registration forms are included at the end of the magazine.

(Cont' page 4)

(Cont' page 3)

All Roads Lead to Kansas" is the theme of campvention July 7 – 12. Ivalee Vanderhoff and Gerald Phfirsch and the Region 3 team are working

hard planning an exciting week for us. Watch "Camping Today" for information about campvention.

Until the next campfire, Shari



For those FCRV members who subscribe to the hard copy of Camping Today, the time to renew your subscription is approaching. Your subscription runs January to December, so if you wish to continue this service into the new year, please send \$20 (or \$25 for Canadian subscribers) to the National Office:

Family Campers & RVers  
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Depew, NY 14043

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# Retiree Rally 2019

**Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center**

**Houma, Louisiana**

**March 19-24, 2019**



## 'Blue Bayou'

by Rally Coordinators, Dal  
& Barb Dodson

Have you made plans to attend the 2019 Retiree Rally in Houma, LA? Time to start planning; fall is officially here. Rally dates are March 19-24, early days March 15-18.

Come prepared for warmer weather and visiting with friends we haven't seen in a while!

Don't forget, plenty of sites to see, places to visit and restaurants in and near Houma.

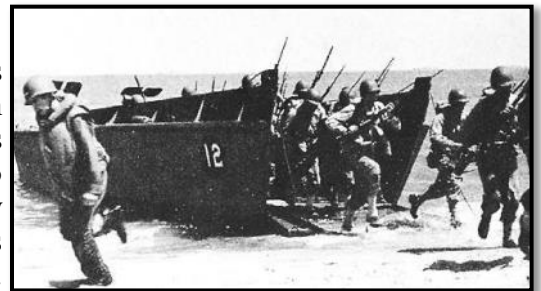
Our teams are working hard to make this an enjoyable rally, so please mark your calendars to attend.

See you in Houma!

Barb/Dal

visit while you are in Houma for the rally whether you are a veteran or not.

Regional Military Museum is a museum which is dedicated to the Army and veterans of the USA. The museum



has several exhibits which are still in functional condition. Army veterans who are volunteers at the museum interact with visitors regarding their experiences in the army. The museum is located in historic downtown Houma at 1154 Barrow Street. Hours: Monday – Friday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Visit the museum's website at <https://www.regionalmilitarymuseum.com/> and watch for more info from Ron Braley, Veterans Program Director.

## Regional Military Museum Houma, Louisiana

by Barb Turner, Rally Publicity Chair



When we visited Houma three years ago for Retiree Rally 2016, Ron Braley made arrangements to visit the museum and ride a landing craft. Now, jump ahead three years to Retiree Rally 2019, a visit to the museum should be a 'must'

## Veterans Program

By Ron Braley, Veterans Program Director

First and foremost, I need to apologize to all the Veterans and their families for the way things went at the Campvention in Virginia.

I believed that I had everything in order, and I did not. It was brought to my attention by several Veter-



ans and Program Directors that they were not pleased with the things set for the Veterans and their families.

I have reached out to other Veterans and people that I know will be honest with me to find out how to ensure that this does not happen again.

**I will get things set up for Houma, Louisiana and email the information to all Veterans that have given me their email address. If you would like to be on that list, email me at [fcrv-veterans@outlook.com](mailto:fcrv-veterans@outlook.com).**

If we have any Veterans in the local area of Houma, I would appreciate an email or phone call (727-251-0909).

I look forward to seeing you all in Houma and wish you safe travels.

God Bless



## 2019 International King & Queen Contest



Are there couples out there that want to compete for the title of 2019 INTERNATIONAL FCRV KING & QUEEN? The next competition will be at Houma, LA during the FCRV Retiree Rally Mar 19-25, 2019. This fall is the time to get support from your Retiree chapter or State and get your application to us;

Ronald & Jo Hersom, K & Q Coordinators ([rj50158@aol.com](mailto:rj50158@aol.com), 641-752-6528). Contact us for the application and guidelines. You'll also need time to get your BIO into Camping Today so others know of your intensions.

And if you're not in the K & Q contest, you'll want to register for the Rally and join in the fun. See you there!



## "Oh, Well It's Carnival Time"

by Gerry Dantin, Contest Chair

### Get you costume ready for the Retiree Rally in Houma, LA!

We will be having a Mardi Gras costume contest followed by a second line parade around the auditorium. All contestants will be given beads to hand out to

the audience while the judges make their decision We will have 3 winners: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Come join us to **"Pass a good time" and let the "Bon Temps Roule"!!!**

## Mardi Paw Pooch Parade



Come join us at the **Mardi Paw Pooch Parade**. Participation Awards, goody bags, dog treats and more will be given to all participants. Six awards will be given out on Awards Night. Cats are invited. The awards will be:

- 1) Best Costume
- 2) Most Adorable
- 3) Best Trick
- 4) Best Behaved
- 5) Best in Show
- 6) Cat - Best in Show

Chair - Robert & Rita Letellier

Co-Chair - Alice Corkran



## DoorPrizes



Don't dilly-dally, start gathering your door prizes for the Retiree Rally.

Thank you

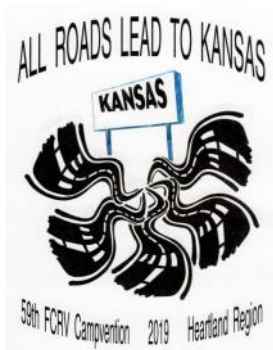
Pat Crow, Door Prize Chairman



## Goody Bags

I'm doing goody bags. If anyone wants to bring stuff to put in them, they can give it to me. We will stuff the bags when I get to Houma.

Mary Funk, Chairman



# Campvention 2019

**Kansas State Fairgrounds**

**Hutchinson, KS**

**July 7-12, 2019**

## Big Brutus

by Barb Turner, Campvention Publicity Chair

'All Roads Lead to Kansas' is the 2019 FCRV Campvention theme as we look ahead to July 7-12 in Hutchinson, Kansas. Over the next several issues of Camping Today, I'm going to share some 'off the beaten path' sites to visit when traveling to Hutchinson, Kansas next July for Campvention which is being hosted by the Heartland Region of our FCRV organization.

West Mineral which is located in southeastern Kansas is where you'll find Big Brutus which is described as one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas. Big Brutus is one of the largest mechanical cranes in the world and rests at the center of the mining museum



in West Mineral. Big Brutus weighed 11 million pounds and stands tall at 160 feet. It was in use from 1962 through 1974 and was finally left right there due to being uneconomical to either use or move due to heavy consumption of resources. The place is now used as a tourist attraction spot.

Big Muskie was its rival. It operated in eastern Ohio, but it is now gone. Many years ago our Ohio S.E.R.V.E. educational campout was held near the site where Big Muskie's plug was pulled. The U.S. Environmental Agency said in 1999 that all old mining equipment had to be removed – environmental hazard! No one came forth with a 'home' for Big Muskie so it was dismantled and sold for scrap. With Big Muskie's demise, Big Brutus is now the largest.

Unlike Big Muskie, when Brutus' plug was pulled

in 1974, the locals rallied to have him declared a state landmark and turned into a museum. 'Postcards of Brutus were mailed far and wide. The big-muscled earth-mover would not be forgotten.'

What exactly was this Big Brutus? Big Brutus is the nickname of the Bucyrus-Erie model 1850-B electric shovel that was used in the strip mining of coal. The shovel was designed to dig from 20-69 feet down to unearth relatively shallow coal seams. Smaller equipment would then mine the seams. It's 79 ½ feet long, 58 feet wide, and, as stated above, is 160 feet in height. It moved on Caterpillar tracks. Gross power was 7,500 hp (standard) with its peak being 15,000 hp. Blade capacity was 90 cubic yards or 150 short tons. Truly, a might machine! From all that I've read, Big Brutus is worth a visit.



Visit [bigbrutus.org](http://bigbrutus.org) which describes what you can expect on this backroads site. Enjoy!

Pictures courtesy of roadsideamerica.com

## Site Decoration

The Site Decoration Theme for 2019 is:  
**Kansas is.....** More on this later.

Sherry McGuire, Chair  
[jmac2@csicable.net](mailto:jmac2@csicable.net)







## Traditional Parade

The theme for the traditional parade is:  
**Best Road Trip Ever!**

This can be a reenactment of a childhood memory/ family trip, a mode of transportation, a location, let your imagination run wild. This will be a traditional, walking parade, and trailers are scarce in the Hutchinson area, so either participants will need to bring their own trailer, use the back of their pickup or.....there again, use their imagination! The parade route has shade trees along the way, so those viewing the parade can bring their lawn chair, lemonade and stay relatively comfortable.

Sherry McGuire, Chair  
[jmac2@csicable.net](mailto:jmac2@csicable.net)



## Pet Parade

The Pet Parade Theme is:  
**Construction Zone ahead!**



Dress those doggies or kitties in the latest construction zone outfit, signage, or equipment you can find!

Sherry McGuire, Chair  
[jmac2@csicable.net](mailto:jmac2@csicable.net)



## Campvention 2019 Door Prizes



We all enjoy getting a door prize at Campvention, and we are hoping that with your help and generosity we will be able to attain our goal.

We will gather your gifts at registration, and we look forward to meeting you.

Door Prize Committee  
Florence Fox, Chair

### CORRECTION

Dates for the Florida Fall State assn. Campout are **Nov. 2-4, 2018** at Blueberry Hill Resort in Bushnell, FL. Contact Cecil Baker 813-988-4213. See upcoming events page.

## Here's your chance to be an FCRV officer!



Nominations are being accepted for the slate of officers (Trustees) who will govern the operations of the Family Campers & RVers (FCRV) during the 2019/2021 term of office. These positions include Vice President Operations, Vice President Planning and Development, and Comptroller.

Any FCRV member in good standing is eligible for nomination consideration. Please immediately contact your respective State/Provincial Directors or Regional Directors if you are interested in any of these offices. The deadline for receiving nominations is November 30, 2018.

Once a nomination slate has been selected by the nominating committee, each candidate will complete a resume and platform which will be published in the March 2019 issue of "Camping Today". Ballots for a contested election will be distributed the beginning of March with the deadline for voting as April 15, 2019. If you cannot participate in electronic balloting and will not be at your membership residence on file with the office, absentee ballots must be requested by January 15, 2019 indicating the alternate address. Make your request for an absentee ballot to Pat or Carl at the national office 716-668-6242 or by email [fcrv-nat@verizon.net](mailto:fcrv-nat@verizon.net). You can also update your email address through your state/provincial director or by contacting the national office directly.

Shari Weber  
President

Part of a Continuing Series About FCRV Programs

## Background Checks? Clearing Up The Mystery

By Bob Lockhard  
Volunteer Background Records Custodian

Have you ever wondered why we do Background Checks? I mean, after all, aren't we a "Family" organization? None of us would ever harm one of our children, so why do background checks? To the best of my knowledge, we have never had a complaint by a child, so again, why do we do background checks? I'll try and explain in this article the reasons behind doing the checks and



who has to have one.

First let me define what we do and what we don't do. We do a Background Check not a Background Investigation. The difference is a Background Check is a computer search of "Public Records" by a licensed investigative agency to determine if the volunteer has ever been convicted of a crime in the State or County/Parish where they live. A Background Investigation is far more extensive. An investigation would start with a computer search (like we do) and then move onto reference checks, employment checks, neighborhood canvass, and etc. There is a great deal of depth field work to conducting an investigation; I know, because in my civilian life I have done many them. I view the reason we do background checks is that they are a "safety net" to help protect our children, our volunteers and our organization. The newspapers and TV are replete with articles and stories where a church, school, athletic team or some other children's organization has fallen victim to a child being harmed by a "trusted" leader in the organization. It is true that you cannot prevent all of these crimes from occurring but we have an obligation to do our "due diligence" to try and prevent it from happening. Failing to do our due diligence to protect our children exposes us to criminal and civil liability as an organization and you as an individual volunteer.

Knowing all of this you may be asking yourself; "do I need a background check?" My answer is it depends. If you will be directly supervising our children during an event, one is required. Should you be asked to address a group of children on a particular item or participate in an event where your contact with the children is supervised by a volunteer with a background check, then you don't. Example; suppose you are asked to help the teens develop a dance routine for the pageant as a group, with the teen coordinator (with a background check) present at all times, then you don't need a check. However, if you are asked to help a teen develop their individual routine for the pageant privately, you do require a background check. You may ask yourself; "If I feel I need a background check, who do I contact?" Feel free to contact me directly (csobob@frontier.com) and we will determine the need. If a background check is required, the applications are found on our web site and should be completed and submitted, to me, through your local and State/Province directors for completion. Once completed you will be notified through your State/Provincial Director.

In closing let me remind you that a "child", for our purposes is, anyone that is not a legal adult. So it doesn't matter if you are working with the Teens, Youth or Children if you need a background check the procedure is the same.



**Norman and Jane Worth** of West Grove, PA celebrated their 64th Wedding Anniversary September 10, 2018. The Worts are longtime active members of FCRV having held many offices in the PA State Assn. Norm is currently D.A.S.A.T. for Pennsylvania. Email: worhnj@verizon.net.

## Martian Gets 50 Year Certificate



*FCRV's Martian,  
Ray Brandt*

Yes, there was a FCRV Chapter in Mars, PA that is, a small town just north of Pittsburgh, PA. The town even has a flying saucer in the park. The 50 year FCRV member is Ray, Brandt who along with his late wife, Kay and 3 kids began camping over 50 years ago and were original members of the Martians Chapter. However, the chapter is no longer active and Ray belongs to the neighboring Moraine Blazing Stars Chapter (named after a glacial flower). Now 86, Ray no longer owns an RV but he often camps with his son Charles' family. Ray was a past Trustee of NCHA/FCRV having served as National Treasurer several years ago. The certificate was awarded at the Executive Board meeting In July and brought home for Ray



UFO in Mars, PA.

to be presented at a recent chapter campout. Ray's email is [rjbrandt@zoominternet.net](mailto:rjbrandt@zoominternet.net).

## Memories

### Michigan's Doug & Linda Farrell



Some may remember my parents Doug and Linda Farrell. They were in the Puddle Jumpers and NeverEver Homes in NCHA. I'm writing to keep you in the loop and let you know that my mom passed away recently. Us kids: Scott, Kate, Megan and myself really enjoyed growing up in NCHA/FCRV and those are cherished memories. Thank you, Camping Family!

By Tammy Lowe

## FCRV Activities



Before the Fall Invitational, the Hoosier Retirees gathered for a few days of fun and fellowship.



## Flood Safety

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

How prepared are you for a given emergency? As one reflects over the past month our thoughts go to those who live in the states of Virginia, North and South Carolina, and some areas of Georgia. Hurricane Florence has come and gone but the destruction is everywhere especially in the Carolinas. From most of the news reports, the worst is the areas hit by the rising waters caused by heavy rain. The inland areas away from the coast received massive amounts of rain. Areas that may or may not have flooded in the past did flood. For those who evacuated, how prepared were you, and did you take with you the necessary items to survive for several days?



Flash flooding is very dangerous and it can come from out of nowhere. Knowing what to do, can save a life. Flash floods are the number one cause of death because people do not take it seriously. Fast moving water can move a car, and it can even move a house. Floods are the most common and widespread of the natural disasters and they can be caused by large amounts of rain in a very short period of time. Flooding is the overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. In a few instances some floods can take days in other cases flash floods can result in fast rising and moving waters. The terms for flooding are as follows: a flood watch means flooding is possible. A flood warning means it is going to happen. How fast it will occur no one knows, but it will happen and is expected. Before a flood happens in your community find out if you live in a flood prone area. Remember it may not flood all the time, but a low lying areas can flood or be the recipient of a flash flood. Flash floods can come without any warnings. The can cause power outages, road closures, disrupt transportation, damage building, and create landslides. Flash floods are extremely dangerous.

Here are some things to consider before the flood. Check the sewer traps to make sure they have been installed corrected. The valves should prevent flood waters from backing up in the sewer drains. Store materials like sandbags, plywood and plastic sheeting to help protect your home from impending raising waters.

According to FEMA here are some other things to consider if you receive a flood warning. Take shelter



right away. Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. If you are driving and come upon a flooded road, *turn around don't drown*. Attempting to cross a flooded road could endanger your life and the lives of others. Just six inches of fast moving water can knock you down and one foot of fast moving water can sweep your car away. Determine your best protection based on the type of flooding that may occur. Stay off the bridges that are over fast moving waters. Evacuate if told to do so. Move to higher ground or a higher floor within your building. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by the rising water. Go to the roof only if it is necessary. Signal or call for help.

According to FEMA here are some other things to consider if you receive a flood warning. Take shelter right away. Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. If you are driving and come upon a flooded road, *turn around don't drown*. Attempting to cross a flooded road could endanger your life and the lives of others. Just six inches of fast moving water can knock you down and one foot of fast moving water can sweep your car away. Determine your best protection based on the type of flooding that may occur. Stay off the bridges that are over fast moving waters. Evacuate if told to do so. Move to higher ground or a higher floor within your building. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by the rising water. Go to the roof only if it is necessary. Signal or call for help.

One the flood has passed and you are allowed to return to your home, review the following: if fresh or canned food has come into any contact with any flood waters, throw it out. With the loss of power for any extended length of time all of the food items in your refrigerator and freezer have spoiled-throw this out as well. If possible take steps to reduce your risk of future floods. Make sure rain water flows away from your home instead of into it. Watch for floating debris such as logs, and other items. Flood waters can often erode roads and walkways. If you are driving on a flooded road, (this is not safe in the first place) consider that parts of the road may be gone and you will not be able to see this as you proceed. Flooding of any kind is dangerous. The more you know about flooding the safer you will be in the future.

For additional information on this topic, go to [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) and search for *flood*. Download the [\*FEMA app\*](#) to get more information about preparing for a *flood*. Find Emergency Safety Tips under Prepare.

Resources for this article:

FEMA, March 2018, Catalog No. 17233-6

Charles County Emergency Preparedness Guide, June 2017

Citizen's Guide to Emergency Preparedness, Charles County, Md., May 2006

## Roadschooling Trend Grows for Full-Timer Parents

Courtesy of RV Business

Chelsea Gonzales loves to travel, and she was determined not to stop when she had children. So she did what felt the most natural to her: she decided against traditional schooling and took her son on the road instead.

*Crixeo* reported that they started RV living over two years ago when he was about four, but they didn't pause when he was ready for kindergarten, and they're not stopping anytime soon.



*RV Telescoping*

Schooling takes place in the RV or on trips to museums, zoos and aquariums.

"Last summer, we were studying the Revolutionary War, and we went to a lot of the cool Revolutionary War museums," Gonzales says. "We weave our history, language arts and science together, and it helps him and me get a better understanding of how all of these things fit into the world."

Gonzales' family is roadschooling (homeschooling on the road), AKA worldschooling. There are no records of how many families are roadschooling, but according to the Department of Education, close to 2 million, or 3.5% of American children, are homeschooled.

A [roadschooling](#) Facebook community has over 12,000 followers, and a [worldschooling](#) one has about 1,800. Experts have devoted their lives to helping families navigate this relatively new method of schooling.



*Hawaii Volcano*

"It's hard to say how many families, or people in general, are traveling around these days, but based on Instagram, some meetups we've done, and just people we meet, it's probably a

larger number than most people would imagine,” says Nathan Swartz, a writer for *Wand’rly*, a magazine for full-time travelers, who along with his wife has been roadschooling their three children for the past eight years. “There’s a real trend toward living mobile these days, whether you have kids or not.”

For the full story click [here](#).

<https://crixeo.com/rv-living-homeschooling/>

## Dometic and Care Camps Partner to Support Oncology Camps

**ELKHART, Ind. – August 30, 2018**

Recreational lifestyle brand Dometic is teaming up with Care Camps to raise funds to ensure that more children with cancer can experience the healing power of camping through the Dometic Capital Fund.

Celebrities from sports and entertainment have also joined the movement. Hoonigan and Loenbro driver and longtime Care Camps supporter, Steve Arpin, and rising country music star Stephanie Quayle



are lending their voices to the effort of supporting children with cancer and their families.

Dometic and Care Camps have established the Dometic Capital Fund, a collaboration that will raise money to cover operational expenses to send kids to one of the 133 special oncology camps supported by Care Camps in North America. The Dometic Capital Fund will also support events featuring Steve Arpin and Stephanie Quayle as well as putting on their own events for employees to engage either internally or at a local camp.

“Dometic is committed to do our part in helping children be able to have an enjoyable camp experience,” says Scott Nelson, President of Dometic Americas. “All children should be able to enjoy the outdoors, no matter their situation. We are excited to support Care Camps and get our employees involved as well.”

“This partnership is the first of its kind for our organization,” said Karen McAndrew, executive director of Care Camps. “We know from research that children with cancer and their families who attend camp have improved quality of life and other important positive outcomes.”

“Last year we had oncology camps request more

than \$300,000 for facility improvements, equipment, and expansion that went unfunded,” she said. “By establishing the Dometic Capital Fund, we can rally our most passionate supporters to help make sure that any child with cancer has the opportunity to experience the hope and healing that camping brings.”



Dometic will be kicking off the Dometic Capital Fund at their Elkhart Open House event, Chillin’ & Grillin’, on September 24, 2018 at the Wellfield Botanical Gardens across the street from the Dometic Headquarters in Elkhart, IN. Local families that have children who attend Care Camps will be present along with Country star Stephanie Quayle who will give a benefit performance to the RV Industry members to get them excited about supporting the cause. This will culminate a series of performances Quayle has given throughout the year on behalf of Care Camps.

Arpin, who was named an official Care Camps ambassador in 2017, will also kick off the Dometic Capital Fund giving campaign for Care Camps during the first annual World Rallycross of USA event in Austin, Texas, September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The event is at one of the country’s premier tracks, COTA (Circuit of the Americas) and will feature a festival-like experience with a concert from Ludacris, as well as unique driving experiences and motorsports-related vendors.

“Care Camps is a fantastic organization full of



good people with huge hearts,” said Arpin, who was a top finisher on the Red Bull Global Rallycross circuit in

2017. “I’m so happy to see the partnership of Dometic and Care Camps become a reality. The big winners here are the kids and their families,” said Arpin.

### ABOUT DOMETIC

Dometic is a global market leader in branded solutions for mobile living in the areas of Climate, Hygiene & Sanitation and Food & Beverage. Dometic operates in the Americas, EMEA and Asia Pacific, providing products for use in recreational vehicles, trucks and premium cars, pleasure and workboats,



and for a variety of other uses. Dometic offers products and solutions that enrich people's experiences away from home, whether in a motorhome, caravan, boat or a truck. Our motivation is to create smart and reliable products with outstanding design. We operate 28 manufacturing/assembly sites in nine countries, sell our products in approximately 100 countries and manufacture approximately 85% of our products sold in-house. We have a global distribution and dealer network in place to serve the aftermarket. Dometic employs approximately 8,200 people worldwide, had a net sales of SEK 14.0 billion (\$1.7 billion USD) in 2017 and is headquartered in Solna, Sweden.

For more information on Dometic, please visit: <http://www.dometic.com>.

### ABOUT CARE CAMPS

Care Camps is here to bring hope, healing and outright fun for kids with cancer and their families. Working together, Care Camps partners help raise

funds for a compelling cause: to send children affected by cancer to medically supervised camps where they have a wonderful time in the great outdoors with other kids who understand what they're going through. They do it all while receiving the treatments they need. Until cancer is a memory, Care Camps will continue to help these great kids make joyful memories of their own. Since 1984, Care Camps has raised over \$13 million so kids can attend camp free of charge. In 2017, \$1.15 million in operating and capital grants was disbursed serving 42,000 children and family members.

For more information about Care Camps, please visit [www.koacarecamps.org](http://www.koacarecamps.org).



## Hot Air Balloons

By Jan & Kip Cushing

On September 19, 1783 Pilatre De Rozier launched the first hot air balloon. The passengers were a sheep, a duck, and a rooster. The balloon stayed in the air for 15 minutes before crashing back to the ground. The first manned flight was on November 21<sup>st</sup> 1783. The first flight of a balloon in North America was on January 7, 1793 with George Washington in attendance to see the balloon launch.

For the past ten years, Kip and I have been part of a crew for a friend (and former FCRV member). The past two years we have worked for the Lake Geneva Balloon Company ([lakegenevaballoon.com](http://lakegenevaballoon.com)). We have attended balloon rallies in Monroe, Waterford, Seymour and Hudson, Wisconsin. The rally in Hudson is held in February each year. Even at 20 degrees below zero, it is not too cold to fly, but at temperatures above 90 degrees, it can be too hot. Winds need to be eight MPH or less on the surface and not that much higher aloft for a flight to take place. We have also attended rallies in Grays Lake and Lisle, Illinois and Forest Park (near St. Louis), Missouri. We went to the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2016 and 2017.

Hot air balloons come in all shapes and sizes. The two sizes that we primarily work with are a 90 and a 140. You ask "What does that mean?" Visualize this. Once the balloon is fully inflated, it would take 90,000 basketballs and 140,000 basketballs to fill the inside of the balloon respectively.

A typical morning flight during the summer months starts really early. We get up around 3:30 am. By



**Crew holds open balloon mouth**



*Final inflation*

4:00 am we are notified whether the flight is a “go or not”. If it is not, we go back to bed. If it is a go, we meet at 4:45 to 5:00 am. One of the pilots will release a PI (pilot indicator) ball. This is a balloon filled with helium. It indicates to the pilots approximate wind speed and direction at increasing altitudes. Based on what the PI ball does, a decision is made on a launch site. Launch sites are determined with possible landing sites in mind. Upon arrival at the launch site, another PI ball is sent up and a final decision on the flight is made. If the flight is a “go”, equipment is then unloaded and readied for take-off. Equipment includes the basket, burners, envelope (balloon) and high powered gas fans. The balloon is stretched out and prepared for inflation. Two crew members hold the mouth open while being

cold inflated by the fans and others close the top of the balloon. Other crew members hold the balloon down by the crown lines that are attached to the top. When the balloon is about 90% inflated the pilot starts the burners, finishes inflation, and stands the basket up with crew members holding the basket down. The crown lines are brought in and passengers are boarded. “Hands Away” and the balloon is airborne.

Fans and the empty envelope bag are loaded into the equipment trailer. The chase and recovery now begins. The flight is tracked by an application (usually Glympse) on a crew member’s cell phone that is connected to the pilot’s phone. This lets the crew know a likely landing spot. Ideally, the crew is at the landing spot and ready to “catch” the balloon as it lands. When the crew reaches the balloon, the passengers are disembarked and the process of packing up the balloon and basket begins. Excess air is removed from the envelope with a “squeegie” which looks like a giant paper clip. Straps are put on the envelope and the envelope is then put back in the bag. All equipment (basket, uprights, burners, bag, etc.) are put in the trailer. The crew and passengers then return to the original meeting spot for a champagne toast and the balloonist prayer.



*Packing up after landing.*

### THE BALLONIST PRAYER

May the winds welcome you with softness.  
May the sun bless you with its warm hands.  
May you fly so high and so well that God joins you in laughter  
and sets you gently back into the loving arms of Mother Earth.



*It fits in the bag*



*All packed up*



## RV and Camper Classifieds Rolls Out New Website

Courtesy of RV Business

RV and Camper Classifieds Inc. announced the launch of its new website located at,

<https://RVCclassifieds.com/>.

According to a press release, the website offers a quick and easy interface to post and review RV classified listings. In addition, the new site has a clean design, responsive functionality and enhanced listing feature for customer-generated content. Customers can post pictures and video, use the geo-targeted RV locator and transcend language barriers through the use of the multi-lingual RV classified platform. The new website goes live on Sept. 1.

"We are excited about the launch of our website. Dealers, private owners, or anyone who visits our site will initially notice it is user-friendly and offers many amenities," said RV and Camper Classifieds CEO Christopher Allen. "We believe this new site will allow our visitors to have an exceptional experience as we continue to grow and increase our market presence."

"Our platform has expanded functionality for standard listings including location mapping tools," added Allen. "Moreover, the site will complement the dealer-partner business model allowing them to offer their current inventory on our platform. Strengthened by our SEO, social media and advertising channels, listings will reach more users in the local and global markets."



## "Smile.Amazon.Com"

Are you an Amazon user?

If so, you can switch to "smile.amazon.com" and be able to purchase the same items at the same prices. The difference is "smile.amazon.com" will donate .5% or \$0.50 per \$100 of your purchase to a selected not for profit. We ask that you select National Campers & Hikers when you set up your preferences at "smile.amazon.com". Tell your friends and family to do the same.

If you use "[smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)" and select National Campers and Hikers Assoc., Amazon will donate .05% of every purchase you make back to us. At no cost to you!

Be sure to use "SMILE.AMAZON.COM"

Every time you shop!

Kip Cushing says:

I have been doing/using this ever since I found out about it. I saw this handout getting support for our Kemper Center here in Kenosha. It is for non-profit organizations and who knows what it may lead to down the road. Do you use it? Ex: you buy \$100 of RV supplies or books or clothes we get .5% or \$0.50 if my calculator is correct. It would be like a supplement income from our members whether lifetime or a regular member enabling us to get funds from Amazon in support of our non-profit organization. Can't hurt to try and see if our members will give it a try.

How does AmazonSmile work?

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from over one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. You can find FCRV by searching with the words "Family Campers & RVers" or "National Campers & Hikers". Both searches take you to the FCRV account. Payment comes to the organization 45 days after the end of a quarter provided there are at least \$5 in the account.



## Step Up Your Fall Camping Game With These 10 State Parks

By Amanda Watson

*Enjoy the crisp air and changing leaves at these state parks across the U.S.*

Take your fall camping ritual to a new level this year with a trip to one of these scenic state parks. Freshwater ponds and swift-flowing rivers, towering forests of orange and yellow, and spectacular moun-



tain vistas make fall one of the most beautiful times for an outdoors getaway.

State parks offer the perfect way to experience much that fall has to offer. Hike a trail, paddle a river, fish in the lake, or maybe even attend a fall festival. With the [fall foliage season](#) approaching, you'll want to make the most out of the beautifully colored leaves and check out the view for yourself.

<http://www.doityourselfrv.com/fall-camping-10-state-parks>

# Products



## Camping World Offers RV Intelligence Level Tool

by Dave Barbulesco Courtesy of RV Business

RV Intelligence announced that Camping World is now carrying the WoBLR, The "World's Best Level for RVs."



According to a press release, the time-saving device is a level measuring tool that pairs to a smartphone, allowing the RV owner to level his or her RV quickly and easily.

"We have been getting feedback and seeking opinions from local Camping World staff from the beginning. Now our products will be on their shelf, full circle in just one year," stated co-founder Herb Gingold, adding that the WoBLR was awarded the runner-up Product of the Year award from the RV Industry Association (RVIA) in August 2018.

The WoBLR uses the RVIQWoBLR app to help level an RV by using a smartphone. The app is available for both Apple and Android devices. The WoBLR is accurate to within less than one degree in two dimensions. The produce displays the RV's level as 2D bubble over an image of your RV, allowing you to quickly "wobble your way to level." The WoBLR also has a Hitch Point feature that allows the user to find the exact hitch height needed to connect the ball hitch or fifth-wheel king pin.

Founded in 2017 by Herb and Vicky Gingold, the company also produces a line of RV remote controls

for jacks, awnings, and slideouts that are paired to a smartphone. They also offer the Hitch PinLeash, a towing safety device that ensures RVers never lose their hitch pin again.

"We have new products coming very soon. We continue to develop products that provide the average RVer with features found in high-end coaches. We utilize the latest technology to create products that are innovative, convenient, and cost effective," said Herb Gingold.

## RV in Production That Can be Towed by Bicycle

Courtesy of RV Business



An Elkhart, Ind.-based company is launching a new towable RV that is small and light enough to be pulled by a bicycle.

WSBT reported that it's been two years in the making. Bike Stream RV says the bike-towable RV is large enough to hold one person plus some gear and weighs in at about 70 pounds.

"Just like traditional hard-sided RV is a step up from pop-up campers, let's say these are as step up from a pop tent and about the same amount of space inside that you are up off the ground," said Scott Shultz of Bike Stream RV.

"It has all of the things you would find in a traditional RV. It's got a water supply. It's got a sink. It's got a bed. It's got storage cabinets to keep you gear in, a sky light, ventilation, no air conditioning, no washer and dryer, no toilet," said Shultz.

For the full story click [here](#).

<https://wsbt.com/news/local/elkhart-company-gears-up-production-on-rv-thats-small-enough-to-be-pulled-by-a-bicycle>



# HALLOWEEN





# Farewells

## CORRECTION

Unfortunately Roy Williamson's daughter Debbie (eldest) predeceased Roy by a couple of months.

### Carol Reichardt, Past Kentucky State Director



Carol Ann Reichardt, 80, of Somerset, Kentucky passed away September 18 after dealing with cancer for 31 years.. She was originally from Ohio. She worked for many years in the financial trade and after retiring moved to Kentucky. She and her husband Don served together as Kentucky State Director several years ago. They are members of the Kentucky Colonels Chapter. She volunteered for Pulaski Emergency Relief Ministries and was secretary to the Executive Director. Carol enjoyed camping, quilting and sewing.

She is survived by 4 children, Kirk (Anita ) Stompo, Jennifer (Russell) Hollar, Donald Arthur Jr., and Teresa (Dale) Pollock and 15 grandchildren. Condolences may be expressed at [www.pulaskifuneralhome.com](http://www.pulaskifuneralhome.com).

**Helen Woodburn**, 9-14-18, Montreal, Quebec, Coudreux De Bois Chapter.

**Agnes Zerinque Pertuit**, 99, 9-17-18, Lafoutche Parish , Louisiana, Bayou Retirees. "Last of the old gang".

**Lois Studt**, 86, 9/26/18, South Bend, IN. Lifetime Member and active Field Staff for many years.

### Jane Brown, Past Retiree Royalty, Active Volunteer



Jane Brown of St. Cloud Florida passed away on September 23, 2018. She and her husband Peter were very active NCHA/FCRV members having joined in California in 1955. They moved to Virginia in 1972 and served in various chapter offices in ARVA Byrd Dawgs, Hill And Dalers, and Young At Heart Chapters as well as Field Directors.

They were state King & Queen for Virginia in 1986. They attended 32 Retiree Rallies from 1986 to 2018. They worked on several committees over the years including Security, Mail & Information, Food, and Registration. They were Registrars for 7 years and were Retiree Rally Chairmen in 1992. Later they served as Retiree Advisors for several years.

The Browns moved to Florida in 1990 and held chapter offices in the Cow Country Campers, Golden Floridians, Golden Lakers, and Florida State Association where they were state Scholarship Directors and Retiree Directors. Peter and Jane were elected Florida Retiree King & Queen in 1996 and International Retiree King & Queen in 1997.

They attended 38 Campventions and served as Registration Chairmen in 1998 and 2005 and volunteered on several others. They were awarded a NCHA Citation and FCRV Plaque for outstanding service to the organization. Anyone who knows Jane and Peter Brown knows and appreciates their long time dedication. Jane had a subtle sense of humor and loved camping and travelling. Even with increasing health problems she continued to attend rallies. She is survived by her husband, Peter and a daughter, Karen. Condolences may be sent to Peter at [pierre304@aol.com](mailto:pierre304@aol.com).





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## OCTOBER

### **OCTOBER 12 - 14, 2018 - MI HALLOWEEN CAMPOUT**

Hudson Valley FG. Hospitality opens at 6 p.m. Friday. Desert walk 8 p.m. Sat. Cribbage, Euchre, Games, Crafts, Costume Judging, Pumpkin Decorating, Trick or Treating, Trailer Decorating Judging, Potluck 6 p.m. Sunday pancake breakfast . \$25 preregistration, \$25 at gate -\$50 total. Second family in unit \$25. Day pass \$10 per car. Thursday arrival \$17. Make checks payable to Halloween Campout, C/O Cindy Westra, 5101 S. Iva RD, Merrill, MI 48673 (616-915-2293) [Clwesra10@att.net](mailto:Clwesra10@att.net) (include # of teens, youth, handicapped.)

### **OCTOBER 28 –NOVEMBER 4, 2018 - TEXAS STATE ASSN. FALL CAMPOUT**

Pioneer River Resort, 102 Maple St., Bandera, TX . Full week of activities and sight seeing. Camping \$30 / night, available 2 days pre and post rally. Call Campground with credit card to hold reservation (request 30 or 50 amp or special needs). 866-371-3751 or 830-796-3751 ([pioneerrvresort.com](http://pioneerrvresort.com)) \$5 event fee collected by TSA. Info - Jessie Lynn, 210-419-7746.

## NOVEMBER

### **NOVEMBER 2-4, 2018 – FALL FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION RALLY**

The fall FSA campout will be at Blueberry Hill RV Resort, 6233 Lowery Street (CR609), Bushnell, FL(exit 314 on I-75). If you want to come early, Thursday November 1<sup>st</sup> will be an early day. The camping fee will be \$35 per night. If you would like to attend, please let Cecil Baker (813)988-4213 know. There is a \$10 registration fee for the weekend. Send the registration fee (make check payable to FSA), your name, address and phone number to Peter Brown, 304 Kentucky Avenue, St. Cloud, FL 34769-2319. If you have any questions, call Cecil Baker at (813)988-4213.



Enjoy your fall  
camping and  
let us know about any  
activities your chapter has!  
We love to share what's  
happening in our  
FCRV family!





**48<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL RETIREE RALLY**  
**HOUMA-TERREBONNE CIVIC CENTER**  
**HOUMA, LOUISIANA 70360**  
**EARLY DAYS: MARCH 15<sup>th</sup> – MARCH 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**RALLY DAYS: MARCH 19<sup>th</sup> – MARCH 24<sup>th</sup>**



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

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

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

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

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

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

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CONFIRMATION LETTER SENT IN PDF: \_\_\_\_\_ OR WORD: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**SPECIAL NEEDS PARKING:**

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

**GUEST ARE WELCOME:**

Guests/Non-FCRV members are welcome . They may be in their own unit or with you. Have them complete a registration form and indicate they are your guests We strongly suggest they enter the camping area at the same time you do. We are guests or NON-FCRV members of: \_\_\_\_\_.

**FEES:**

**EARLY BIRD PARKING (MARCH 15-18): FEE IS \$25 PER NIGHT WITH WATER AND ELECTRIC. EARLY BIRD FEE WILL BE COLLECTED AT HOUMA.**

**RALLY FEES: MARCH 19 – MARCH 24 AND LEAVE ON MONDAY: INCLUDES: 6 nights of camping, water and electric, Ice Cream Social, 2 evening meals, entertainment and all activities connected with the Rally.**

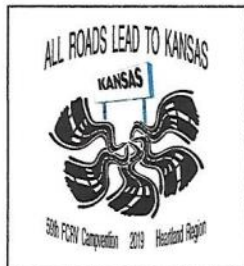
	<b><u>Pre-registration (paid in advance in full)</u></b>	<b><u>At the Gate</u></b>
Two people in a unit:	\$235	\$260
Single person in a unit:	\$200	\$225
Camp Pass (Second family in unit)	\$100	

**REFUND POLICY: Refunds must be requested in writing by mail, email or phone call to the Registrar. Refunds requested before March 8, 2019 will receive the following: two people in a unit: \$210.00, one person in a unit \$175.00, second family in unit \$75.00. After March 8, 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 2019. NO CREDIT CARDS. Mail registration to: Bill and Penny Ramlow, 8009 Cherry Branch Drive, Ruskin, FL. 33573. You can contact them at: 305-822-6589 or 813-545-6083 or email them at [pramlow@aol.com](mailto:pramlow@aol.com).**

I would like to volunteer for: \_\_\_\_\_





**59<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CAMPVENTION  
FAMILY CAMPERS & Rver's**  
Hosted by the Heartland Region # 2  
**"ALL ROADS LEAD TO KANSAS"**  
Kansas State Fairgrounds, 2000 North Poplar St.  
Hutchinson, KS 67502  
**Campvention Days:** July 8 – 12, 2019 fees covers  
July 7 – 12 (6 nights)



**Early Bird Days:** July 5 & 6, 2019 @ \$25 / night (pay @ registration – cash/check)

**Registrations are needed by:** June 1, 2019

There will be room for you if you decide to come at the last minute.  
Just bring this registration with you. We want everyone to come see us!!!

**Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Spouse/Guest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ST/PRV:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first Campvention? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Send my confirmation letter in PDF: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of people in your unit:**

# Of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Teens: \_\_\_\_\_ Youth 9 – 12 \_\_\_\_\_ Youth 5 – 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Young Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Total number of people in Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names and ages of all Teens and Youth:

Name	Age	Name	Age

#### **CAMPVENTION PARKING:**

The gates will be open all days from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The first 211 registrations will be parked in the full hook up sites. All others will be parked with water & electric. If you are not registered prior to arrival, you will be in a water & electric site. The full hook up area has paved streets and gravel parking sites. The water & electric sites are in grass areas. Tent sites are available in grass with shade and close to the shower house.

#### **Special Needs Information:**

Check if you are requesting a special needs site: \_\_\_\_\_ There will be no special needs sites available at the gate.

#### **REGISTRATION:**

Everyone must complete a registration form including second families and camp passes. Submit payment with the registration form. All funds should be US currency of checks or money orders. NO CREDIT CARDS.

	<u>Registration</u>	<u>At Gate</u>
One Family in the Unit	\$300.00	\$310.00
Extra Family in the Unit (separate pay)	\$150.00	\$160.00
Week Drive-in Pass (July 7 – 12)	\$175.00	\$185.00
Walk-in Camp Pass (per day)	\$35.00 Per Day	Same
Motor Home _____ 5 <sup>th</sup> Wheel _____ Travel Trailer _____ Pop-Up _____ Want in shade trees _____		

#### **THINGS TO SEE AND DO AROUND HUTCHINSON:**

Cosmosphere (Smithsonian-affiliated Space Museum), Strataca (a salt mine museum), Yoder (a Amish community), Hutchinson Zoo, Dillon Nature Center, Hedrick Exotic Animal Farm, Soldiers & Sailors Memorial, Reno County Museum, Kansas Kids Museum, Reno County Veterans Memorial, Salt Discovery Site & Memorial Marker,

**Make checks payable to:** 2019 FCRV Campvention

**Mail to:** Keith Koontz  
2224 Woodland St  
Wichita, KS 67204-5938

**Refund policy:** If you are unable to attend, all except \$ 25 will be refunded

**Contact them at:** 316-655-2970 or [k.koontz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k.koontz@sbcglobal.net)

**We would like to volunteer for:** \_\_\_\_\_