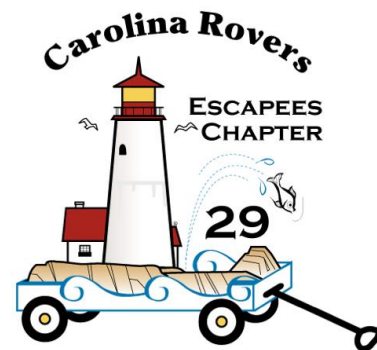




ESCAPEES - CHAPTER 29 CAROLINA ROVERS APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER



President, Steve Masterson
SKP#95338

Vice-President & Newsletter
Editor, Dianne Wood
SKP#113382

Secretary, Marie Rickenbach
SKP#72083

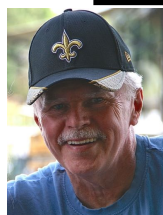
Treasurer, Terri Wirtz
SKP#93910

Officer at Large, Keith Martin
SKP#97531

Index:

President's Message	1-2
Meeting Minutes	3-4
Travel Notes	5-8
CARE Article	9
Rally & SKP ACRE pics	10-12
Word from Escapades	13
Xscapers	14-15
Upcoming Events	16

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thank You

As most of you know, I became President of ACRE (All Chapters Rally East) in June 2014. I was blessed to have Kaye Heins Chapter 29, Cindy Devonshire Chapter 20 and John Sloan join me on the steering committee. Kaye as VP, Cindy as Treasurer and John continued his role as Webmaster. Shortly after accepting the job, we decided to try a new location and selected Sevierville for the 2015 rally. Shortly thereafter, Chapter 29 decided to hold their 2015 Spring rally at River Plantation in Sevierville as well. Planning for ACRE consumed more time than I had imagined but quickly things started to come together. I was really nervous up until the first day of the rally. Then, I looked around and saw chapter 29 members step up and did whatever had to be done to make the 2015 ACRE a success. I am not going to mention names because I don't want to forget anyone so I will talk about jobs that were filled by chapter 29 volunteers.

Registration – Several chapter 29 members helped staff this function, checking people in, making sure everyone had a nametag and selling shirts and badges.

Welcome dinner and CARE fundraiser (Grilled hamburgers) – Members of chapter 29 helped with set up and collected money.

Grocery shopping – Do you know how much food 184 people can eat for breakfast? Kathy and I and another couple went to SAMs Club and filled my car to the roof with groceries. Chapter 29 members also went to the local Walmart to pick up groceries for the continental breakfast.

Eggs in a Bag – Chapter 29 took the lead along with members handing out baggies, cracking eggs, making sure the bowls were full of veggies and cheese, runners to and from the kitchen and the cooks.

(Continued on Page 2)



50/50 Raffle for CARE – Yep, members of chapter 29 stepped up and took the lead and some learned how to count backwards 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

SKP ACRE 2016 Meeting – After thanking everyone for making the 2015 rally a success, I said I needed more help for the 2016 rally. Several people stepped up including chapter 29 members to staff communication for the next rally.

Needless to say, all this brought a huge smile to my heart as each day progressed. I am a very blessed man to have met you, to get to know you and to have watched y'all make 29 a very successful chapter.

Steve Masterson
President, Chapter 29
The Carolina Rovers



Escapes Social Network, Inc

Just before Christmas 2014, I received an email from SKP, Inc (Escapes RV Club headquarters in Livingston) announcing the formation of the Escapes Social Network, Inc. In the email, SKP, Inc stated that as a result of “numerous requests from Chapters to assist them with their annual IRS filings and with insurance coverage”, they were announcing the formation of a “new nonprofit corporation . . . 501(c)(7)”, titled the Escapes Social Network.

Let me step back for a moment and give you some history. Before the formation on this Social Network, Chapters decided on their own whether or not to have a EIN (Federal Employee Identification Number) and whether or not to file taxes with the IRS. SKP, Inc also provided, at no charge, liability insurance for all chapter rallies as long as they held a chapter meeting at the rally and maintained an attendance list. Life was good and Chapter 29 decided that it did not need an EIN and did not need to or want to file taxes since we maintained a very low balance of approximately \$1,000 in our checking account. Our goal was and is to keep the balance between \$500 (to avoid paying for a checking account) and \$1,000.

Now back to the Social Network. In order for chapters to join the Social Network, they had to obtain an EIN from the IRS, complete an application to join, have bylaws, provide SKP, Inc with annual updates and reports and pay a \$100 application fee, which would be required annually, and, it was mandatory to join. On the application to join, chapters will have to list Chapter Officers and Directors (Persons appointed to administer the annual filing). SKP, Inc agreed to waive the fee for 2015 and are considering a sliding scale for future years. After receiving this I replied to SKP, Inc with my concerns regarding the \$100 annual fee and the change in policy to move the liability insurance coverage from SKP, Inc where it was free to chapters to the new Social Network. Simple math - Chapter 29 has 48 members who pay \$5 per year for a total of \$240 per year. \$100 annual fee for the Social Network amounts to 42% of our annual budget. Remember, SKP, Inc also said they would consider a sliding scale for smaller chapters. In my opinion and the opinion of our officers, this fee should be collected from all SKP members not chapters. Ok, here is some more simple math. At the Fall 2014 Chapter Rally, it was reported that SKP, Inc had between 65,000 and 70,000 active members. If they were to charge each member, \$1.00 they would raise \$65,000 annually for the Social Network.

I have continued to express the concerns of Chapter 29 with SKP, Inc and have been told that if we do not join the Social Network, we will be decertified as a chapter. Our officers have made it clear, given the current requirements they do not plan to join the Social Network. This was also discussed at the Chapter 29 2015 Spring Rally where the members present unanimously agreed.

Steve Masterson
President, Chapter 29
The Carolina Rovers

Minutes of Escapees Chapter 29 Carolina Rovers
2015 Spring Rally, April 13, 2015, 5pm – 6pm
River Plantation RV Park, Sevierville, TN

President Steve Masterson called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests and Sue Spahn, our Volunteer Chapter Representative.

Presidents Report: Steve introduced the idea of having an entertainment committee for onsite entertainment for rallies. This committee could plan games, interest groups such as woodworking, photography, hobbies and plan a “tea and sardines” afternoon (Separate woman’s and men’s activity). Sherry Ward and Jim Jackson volunteered for this committee.

Steve also reported on the “Social Network” initiative that Escapees mailed out December 23, 2014. This requires all chapters to join the network, obtain an EIN number from the federal government and appoint a Chapter Director. The cost of this would be \$100.00 per chapter making the 47 members of Chapter 29 financially responsible and the amount would be slightly less than 50% of our chapter dues. SKP, Inc will waive the first year cost. (There are 100s of Escapees with North Carolina or South Carolina addresses.) There was considerable backlash to this program at Escapade. At the present time Chapter 29 does not intend to sign any documents, have anything to do with obtaining an EIN number. If necessary we will discontinue collecting dues and only collect rally fees as necessary. We will not report to the IRS nor appoint a chapter director. The question was asked and answered that Escapees, Inc does not own the name “Carolina Rovers.” It was resolved by the members present that we intend to follow the above course of action (or lack of action).

Jim and Lisa Koca will be at SKP ACRE Presidents meeting and may have additional information about the Social Network.

Vice Presidents Report: None

Treasurer’s Report: Terri Wirtz presented the Treasurer’s Report.

Beginning balance (9/27/2014)	\$ 986.68
Income *	\$1177.50 * sales shirts/patches for 4/2015 not included
Expenses **	\$1116.56 ** not all April rally expenses reported
Ending Balance	1047.62

Secretary’s Report: Marie read the minutes from the last meeting at the Fall Rally. Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the minutes.

Volunteer Chapter Representative’s Report: Sue reported that the latest SKP # was 123245. The 2016 Escapade will be held at Essex Junction (near Burlington VT) July 24-29, 2016. Members can sign up on the website. Those members renewing the membership may do so at the reduced rate. Sue reminded us to check online and in the magazine about HOPS. There are new ones and more new ones to come. Also coming soon is mapping information on the website. Members who have not been on the website recently may need to re-register. The newest arm of Escapees will be Xscapers.

Elections : 2 officers are elected each year. This year Vice President and Treasurer were to be elected. Dianne Wood will run for Vice President and Terri Wirtz will run for Treasurer. The secretary cast one vote for each. Congratulations Dianne and Terri.

Fall 2015 Rally The fall rally will be held at Raleigh Oaks RV Resort in Fair Oaks, NC October 1-4, 2015. Keith and Carol Martin and John and Sue Martin will be rally masters. Please call the campground (919) 934-3181 to make reservations **AND** tell them you are with Chapter 29 Carolina Rovers **AND** then e-mail Keith [REDACTED] to sign up for the rally.

Future activities: River Vista in Dillard GA (indoor pool and fireplace) was suggested. Keith and Carol will check it out. Zooland (near Asheboro NC) was also suggested as a venue as was 1000 Trails in Myrtle Beach, SC. Bob and Debby will check on 1000 trails.

Conclusion: All CARE funds will be kept separate from chapter funds. Leftover money from one rally will be applied to the next rally. Be sure to make suggestions to the Entertainment Committee (Sherry Ward and Jim Jackson). Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Marie Rickenbach
Secretary
Escapees, Chapter 29



GUESS WHO GOT MARRIED?

Congratulations to Dave & Helen Young on their marriage January 30, 2015. We hope you will many happy years together and spend a lot of them Rving with your Chapter 29 friends!



Looking out over the Atlantic at 7 mile bridge. At Sunset Grill, Knights Key, looking at Atlantic



Taken Monday January 26, 2015. Today, now breezy, 60 -67 degrees, winds 15-20 mph all day.



Pictures courtesy of Dan McGowan as they traveled in Florida during January.

Thanks Dan! Glad you were enjoying the good weather while we were cold in NC! HA! (D. Wood)

Dan McGowan

Don having a tranquil moment.

Beverly Jackson



PARROT MOUNTAIN AND GARDENS

Story and Photos by Terri Wirtz

In Pigeon Forge TN is an attraction that is not as popular or well-known as others and that is Parrot Mountain and Garden of Eden at 1471 McCarter Hollow Rd. On a gorgeous Sunday, April 12, 2015, Mary Lockwood, Kaye Heins, and I drove up the winding mountain road that begins across from the Dollywood parking lot. My extra long wheelbase truck barely made the last curve into the Parrot Mountain parking lot. But the drive was so well worth it. The huge azalea bushes and dogwood trees were in full bloom and the very colorful parrots and macaws on their perches greeted us while we were still in the parking lot.

Parrot Mountain displays many birds that were once in homes as pets where they may have outlived their owners (the average life expectancy of a parrot which is from 40 to 80 years) or perhaps were just too much for their owners to handle or were in an abusive situation somewhere and were rescued. Some birds were born here and are for sale. We met a young parrot who will soon be living in Louisiana with his new family.

The paths though the place are all paved but at times can be rather steep, winding through the trees and up and down the hillside. We walked but were offered a tour ride for an additional \$25. The entrance fee is \$16.95 Adults, \$8.95 children 2-11, and \$14.95 Seniors (65+). Most of the local visitors' booklets carry \$1 coupons. The park is associated with Wings of the Smokies Foundation, a nonprofit bird rescue organization. We also bought one ticket that allowed us to feed the lorikeets a small cup of nectar.

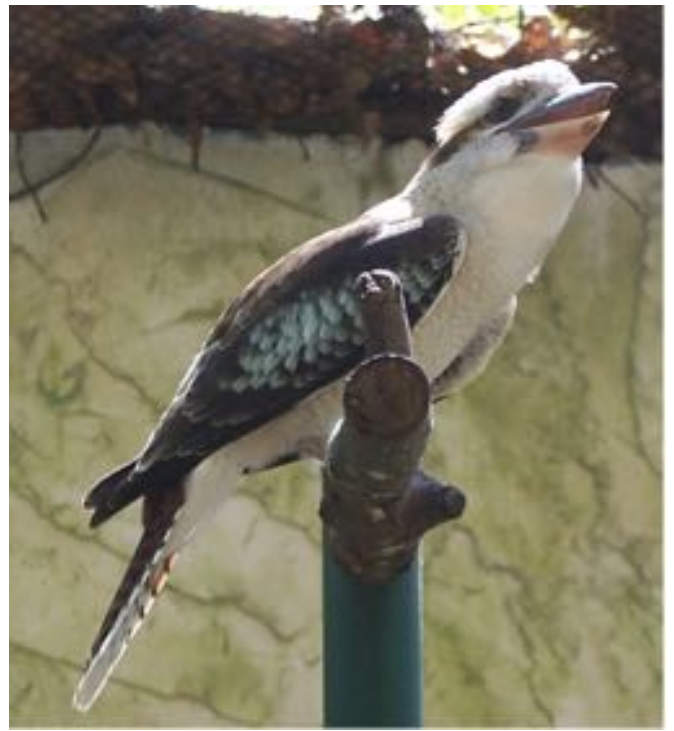
We spent almost 3 hours looking into cages of sun conures, Macaws, parrots, cranes, African Greys, and peacocks, and other exotic birds. We talked to show-off cockatoos Where some actually responded with either "hello" or "mama" – we were not sure because of their strong accent!



We went into the "Secret Garden", a high stonewall area covered with netting with small birds flying or walking around, building nests and singing. There was even an Australian kookaburra, but he would not sing in his old gum tree. At last we came to the Baby Bird Nursery, where (illegally since signs said no photos allowed), I took a photo of a young conure trying to steal Kaye's shiny earring right off her ear. Not getting that, he went for her shiny necklace and then her shiny bracelet. All the babies could be picked up, petted (if they allowed it), and altogether admired.

We ended up in the store where we bought snow cones and sat on the covered deck watching a couple cockatoos watch us. The store also had sandwiches and ice cream cones for sale and in one corner some baby birds just hatched from their eggs, still wobbly on their feet. So ugly only a mother could love.





Why CARE?



For years John and Mary travelled all over the USA. They visited family, caught up with friends, and played tourist in the National Parks and beaches. Then Mary began to notice that John couldn't remember names. As times went on he had outlandish plans for them. Soon it became apparent that something was terribly wrong.

What was Mary to do? She had no home other than her 5th wheel. She and John had sold their home and all their furniture, etc and bought their home on wheels. Their children had their own families and besides she did not want to be a burden to them.

Day after day she answered the same questions over and over and over. She could not leave him alone. What would he do? What would happen if he left the camper, would she be able to find him? As time went on she could not even take him to the stores due to his behavior. She was totally and absolutely stuck!

One day in a precious moment of peace, she read in her Escapees magazine about CARE. She and John had been members of SKP for as long as they traveled. They had heard of CARE but never thought it would be something they would use. But what if just for a few hours a day Mary could have a normal life...go to the store and not worry about what John was doing, get her nails done and not worry about whether or not he had wandered off, buy groceries and not have to depend on her neighbors.

John had been a hard worker all his life. He had insurance, but it did not cover a caretaker. They were doing fine until this.

I could tell many stories about how CARE has provided temporary help for those having hip surgery, or eye surgery. I could tell how wonderful it must feel to be able to go to play golf for a few hours and know that your companion was being fed and watched over.

To me this is where Kay Peterson was a genius! She started Care to care for those who had reached the point they could not travel but did not want to give up the RV lifestyle. In order to make it a do-able project she needed volunteers to help. She needed to make sure that all donations could be deductible. She could get the money to build a modest building, she could get the money to minimally staff the building, she could get the land. She could CARE for those that needed it if she just had volunteers. Volunteers to send money, volunteers to spend time helping others, volunteers to drive those that can't drive to the doctors appointments and volunteers to be a compassionate companion. CARE volunteers and CARE donations make this possible.

CARE is not about a fancy building, green grass and fancy tablecloths. It is not a resort retirement home. *It is simply* a place to go to for Escapees in their time of need.

Kaye Heins

Chapter 29 Spring Rally & SKP ACRE 2015



Chapter 29 Spring Rally & SKP ACRE 2015



Chapter 29 Spring Rally & SKP ACRE 2015



Escapade 2015 - Tucson, AZ



What a wonderful Escapade! There were more than 900 rigs. One of my favorite seminars was given by Gary Tomlinson. He showed wonderful ways to redo our rigs to make them more comfortable and add things to utilize the space better. Then he had an open house so we could see what he had done to his own RV. It was so useful. AND the nice thing was that he wasn't trying to sell a product.

Our ROW was great. Andy and I took turns manning the booth for Chapter 29.

Mary Brown





Exciting New Announcement!

A new benefit of the Escapees RV Club membership was announced at the 55th Escapade. Due to the overwhelming support and excitement of the attendees, we wanted to share the news with you as soon as possible!

A total support network for all RVers...

This is a motto that Escapees RV Club has stood by and promoted for many years. However, this has been a promise that has not yet been fully delivered.

The Escapees board reviews its statistics year after year, and every year the outcome is the same: 85 percent of Escapees members are retired and over the age of 65. While we knew we were not supporting everyone, we didn't realize there was such a large community of RVers flying under our radar.

When RVers who were working on the road or traveling with families were asked, "Have you heard of Escapees?" The response was too often the same: "Escapees doesn't provide the kinds of resources I would use; it's a club for full-time RVers."

There are two problems with this answer. First, we are not meeting the needs of this segment of RVing lifestyle, and second, we are perceived as a club for retired full-timers. It dawned on us that we were no longer living up to our mission statement, which specifically states that we are "A support network for ALL RVers." Something had to be done, and the concept of Xscapers was born.





"Seeing my grandchildren pursue this lifestyle and encourage their peers to do the same is like a dream come full-circle."

-Kay Peterson, Co-founder of Escapees RV Club

Xscapers is an RV lifestyle group of the Escapees RV Club

inspired by its original roots. Our founders, Joe and Kay Peterson, were just 43 years old and working on the road when they started full-time RVing.

When they formed this club in 1978, 40 percent of the members were under age 50, the majority was still working at least part-time, and nine of the first 100 member-families were traveling full-time with their kids. Xscapers is an extension of the club's original roots and is aimed at providing services for working-age RVers.

We were faced with a major dilemma when deciding how to best fit the needs of this demographic into the current membership. To keep information and resources more specific to each RV lifestyle, we realized a one-style-fits-all format simply wouldn't work. It would be best to have a separate website for Escapees and Xscapers in order to better fit the specific demographic's needs for those retired and those working on the road.

Even though there are two websites, www.escapees.com and www.xscapers.com, it is important to remember that Xscapers have access to Escapees and vice versa. **There is no separation in membership and no additional costs.** Every member has the ability to participate in either group as much or as little as they choose. If you are looking for content geared toward working on the road, traveling with families, etc., then Xscapers is for you!

We are excited to bring this new RV lifestyle group into the Escapees circle and truly make Escapees a total support network for **ALL** RVers. So extend your campfire circle, and let's welcome a new generation of RVers named Xscapers!



Find us on Facebook



Find us on RVillage



Find us on Instagram



2015 Fall Rally - Chapter 29

When: October 1-4, 2015

Where: Raleigh Oaks RV Resort & Cottages
527 US Hwy. 701 S.
Four Oaks, NC 27524

Co-Rally Masters: Keith & Carol Martin
John & Susan Martin

Fee: Camping \$31.50 FHU
Rally - TBD

Reservations: www.raleighoaksvresort.com
919-934-3181
Identify yourself as a SKP Chapter 29 Carolina Rovers member.

2016 SKP ACRE

When: April 14-19, 2016

Where: River Plantation RV Resort
1004 Parkway
Sevierville, TN
<http://rvoutdoors.com/river-plantation/>

President Steve Masterson

Fee: Camping - TBD FHU
Rally - TBD per person

Reservations: <http://rvoutdoors.com/river-plantation/>
800-758-5267
Identify yourself as a SKP member.

*Thank you and remember, please send all future submissions, travel news, photo opts, and suggestions for the newsletter to me at [REDACTED]. The deadline for our July issue will be **June 30, 2015**.*

*Dianne Wood
V.P. & Newsletter Editor*