

ESCAPEES - CHAPTER 29 CAROLINA ROVERS OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Rain, Rain, Rain and YES, More Rain

The Fall 2015 rally was a huge success thanks to the Martins and Martins, Carol, Keith, Susan and John and all attendees who helped. Rain at our rallies is

becoming a habit as is all the fun we have despite the weather. Many of us remember our first rally in Concord, NC where it rained and we did not have a covered or enclosed pavilion. erected canopies and installed cutters to carry the water away from Then Fletch and Betty Little, the owners of the our tables. campground, cleaned out their garage to provide us with an, almost enclosed facility. I say almost because when it rained, the roof leaked. A few months later I received a phone call from Fletch to let me know that they tore down the garage and built a new one for us. That was an awesome rally as was our Fall 2015 rally, rain or no rain, we can have tons of fun. At our fall 2015 rally we had an air conditioned, heated enclosed facility with a kitchen. We are getting spoiled and rightfully so. Our next rally is at River Vista RV Resort in Dillard, GA beginning May 8, 2016. Yes, we have an enclosed facility with a full kitchen and fireplace. At our Spring 2016 rally we will elect President and Secretary for a 2 year term. elections at every Spring rally for half of the elected officers. Before our Spring 2016 rally, we have SKP ACRE (All Chapters Rally East) in Sevierville, TN starting April 13 to 15, 2016. This year we will also have a "mini-bootcamp" which will be delivered by Jim Koca from SKP, Inc. Please call today to make your reservation. You can also visit our website for more information.

www.skpacre.com http://carolinarovers29.weebly.com

Social Gathering Palmetto Cove, South Carolina

During the April Spring Rally, we decided that we didn't want to wait for the Fall Rally to get together and socialize and just have FUN! That decision led to us deciding on a location and meeting the week of August 17. We gathered informally, kicked back, and thoroughly enjoyed the week. It rained a little each day but that never gets a Carolina Rover down! The campground was great and the folks that run it fit right in with Chapter 29. We toured the country side and found treasures like Aunt Sue's Restaurant, Victoria Valley Vineyards, and Symmes's Chapel. We had a wonderful time and look forward to our next non-planned event to get together with friends. I have included pictures below from our week. Thanks to Keith Martin for the collage on the following page. Hope you enjoy!



Social Gathering Palmetto Cove, South Carolina (continued)

Thanks to Keith and Carol Martin for the following collage from our mid-rally gathering!



FALL RALLY Four Oaks, NC October 1-4, 2015

Our Fall Rally was held this year at Four Oaks RV Park, Four Oaks, NC, from October 1-4. We enjoyed the camaraderie of all who were able to join us. I guess you could say our timing was a little "off" because it was the week of the heavy rains on the East Coast. We received about 12" of rain so there was very little playing outdoors. We, however, enjoyed a meal at Lake Holt restaurant, numerous trips to Carolina Premium Outlet Mall, a fabulous dinner provided by our rally hosts called Octoberfest, and many other places that could be enjoyed indoors or with the assistance of an umbrella. We also enjoyed meeting many new members who joined us. I know they will make Chapter 29 even better.

Special thanks go out to the Rally co-hosts Keith and Carol Martin and Susan and John Martin. Even without the help of the weather they made this a great week!





FALL RALLY (continued)





Chapter 29 - Carolina Rovers Welcomes New Members Fall Rally 2015



Greg and Donna Graham



Harvey and Pat (Hagan-Jones) Jones



Mac and Renae Shea



John and Carol Coughlin





Steve and Sandra Malkin



RV Service Centers While On the Road

While on the road, you have to think about where to find a Doctor, or where to get your hair cut, or where to get your nails done or where to get your RV serviced. I have found the internet and RV online forums to be an excellent resource. When I arrive at a new location, one of the first things I try to do is locate the closest Urgent Care facility and Emergency Room. Have you ever tried to locate a trauma center or Gastrologist in Cody, WY? Well, I can say from experience that you cannot find them in Cody, WY. The closest is 215 miles away in Casper, WY. HAHAHA Ok I thought a little humor would help.

Do I ever look for the closest RV repair facility? No. I always wait until something fails and then I start looking. This summer we were at the SKP Ranch in Carlsbad, NM where we decided to head out early on a Sunday morning. 3 miles up the highway all the alarms on the dash of the motorhome and my laptop went off then the engine shut down. We pulled off the road and discovered that the air conditioner compressor froze up and broke the serpentine belt. If you have been to Carlsbad, NM you know how remote it is. I went on the internet and located the closest Cummins Service center which was in Hobbs, NM 70 miles away. Ok, it's Sunday, 9:00am, 70 miles from the closest service center in the middle of oil country. You ask, what does "oil country" have to do with this story. Well, most service centers make their living from servicing and maintaining the equipment associated with the oil industry which translates into it being harder and harder to locate a service tech to fix your problem. Well, I got lucky mostly because I always use the same service centers, Cummins Coach Care for my repairs. I called the service center and left a message. 15 minutes later, they called and sent a tech to fix the problem. I always carry extra fan belts and fuel filters for times just like this. The tech installed my replacement belt bypassing the air conditioner compressor and 4 hours later we were back on the road. Then we drove to the Cummins Service center in Albuquerque where they replaced the compressor and fan belt.

So, what's the motto to this story. Years ago I decided to only use Cummins Service Centers for my maintenance and emergency service. Then if I am on the road and something happens to a part that was previously worked on at another Cummins Center, they fix it, no charge. Yes, diesel motorhomes are different then a 5th wheel, travel trailer or gas motorhome but there are national RV chains to consider.

Oh, another point. Don't travel during the weekend, especially on a Sunday morning. hahahaha

Steve Masterson SKP #95338

RV TIPS

We just ordered a EVA-DRY EDV-2200 Electric Dehumidifier for the motorhome. It comes with good reviews and is small enough for an RV. We ordered it from Bed Bath and Beyond, with a 20% coupon and free shipping to our home, it was \$101.08. Thought you may want the info and/or pass it on in the newsletter. Rv'ers and boaters recommend it. Read about it in the below website. They come in different sizes too. Jim & Linda (BCC to others)

Subject: Portable Dehumidifiers | Special Offer « Eva-Dry

https://www.eva-dry.com/special-offers/? gclid=Cj0KEQjw-7GxBRCL Kq6mZSHvdsBEiQA7r8VhAiFTJ gR6o4agOzRflwDdgfNsaZG ElwpCi-jiSKOolaAvrf8P8HAQ

JAMES & LINDA JACKSON SKP #16911

RV TIPS

I would like to see more sharing of RV tips in future newsletters so keep your eyes open and your ears to the ground to pass on helpful hints to your fellow RVers in future issues.

Dianne Wood V.P. & Newsletter Editor

Member Special Interests

Beginning with this issue we would like to start including a "Member Special Interest" section which will highlight interesting "thought you'd like to know" things about your Chapter 29 members. Since we only get together formally twice a year (Spring and Fall Rallies) and some of us cannot attend every Rally, we really never get to know each other on a personal basis.

Beginning with the January, 2016 issue, this section will become a permanent part of our newsletter and we will be requesting that our members submit interesting facts and pictures relating to subjects such as (1) how I got into RVing, (2) my first RV or "where I started vs. where I am today" in the RVing world, (3) special interest / volunteer efforts, (4) hobbies, etc.....I'm sure there will be no end of submissions.

To start off the effort, we have included two subjects this months, one from Terri Wirtz and another from Steve Wood.

ENJOY!!

EXTRA EXTRA...READ ALL ABOUT IT!!! CAROLINA ROVERS SUNSHINE PERSON

During our 2015 Fall Rally meeting we decided how important it was to have a designated individual to represent our Chapter for acknowledging our well wishes or condolences to our "Carolina Rovers Family.

Each member is special to each of us and we want you to know we are there for you.

Helen Young has graciously volunteered to be our Sunshine Person. This is a great fit for our chapter because Helen is a generous, warm natured and caring person. We appreciate what she will bring to this position.

If you receive information regarding one of our members, please forward it directly to Helen



Member Special Interests (cont'd)

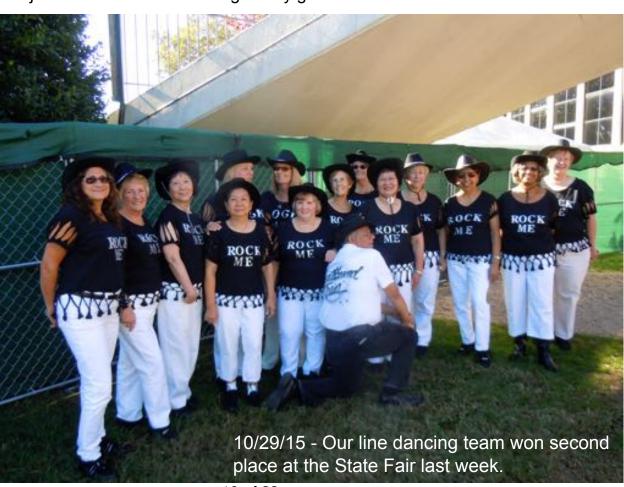
LINE DANCING

Back in the '90s, I discovered line dancing. Joe and I started going once a week to a community center in Concord NH and I was hooked. Not too long after that, we sold our house and took to the road as full-time RVers. Finding a place to dance was not always easy; in fact, darn near impossible some places. One year we ended up working at an RV resort in Apache Junction AZ where there were many like-minded women so nearly every morning, we would meet at the clubhouse to spend an hour dancing. We were fortunate to have two very talented women who would learn the dances, collect the music, and teach the rest of us. Other years it was hit-or-miss whether I could find a place to dance regularly; most of the dance halls in Arizona or Texas were couples' dances and Joe had by then decided it was not his thing.

Two years ago, after moving to Wake Forest NC, I discovered a line dancing class at the Northern Wake Senior Center. Every Thursday morning I join 12-18 women and two men in learning new dances, sometimes to country music, sometimes to pop, rock, or rap music. The teacher, Ronnie Pignataro, is excellent at preparing new dances as well as remembering the old ones. Recently we danced the Watermelon Crawl (Alan Jackson), Pants on Fire (to Lips are Movin by Meghan Trainor), and Uptown Funk (Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars).

Some of the music is more physically demanding that others, but all are fun. I look forward to each class and have met some wonderful women here. We laugh often, sometimes at our own or others' mistakes, sometimes just because we are having a very good time.

Terri Wirtz SKP #93910



Member Special Interests (cont'd)



Motorcycle Madness



Our RVing started at Marion, NC, where SKP ACRE also happened to be that same week. We, as the "new" RV owners of a Class C were there only to take advantage of 2 free nights from Tom Johnson. After hearing all of the merriment and fun that was going on on the other side of the campground, we wandered over to see what was happening. Long story short, we were met by some of the friendliest people we had ever met, were invited to the pot luck dinner and entertainment, and ultimately joined Chapter #29 that very weekend. We have grown in our love for RVing part time to thinking of spending more and longer trips traveling the country. No full time for us.......YET! HAHA

That first weekend, without any transportation in Marion except for the Class C, we realized we needed something more (even though Chapter #29 members were wonderful about providing us transportation even though they didn't know us). Since Steve had always wanted a motorcycle, this seemed the best route to take. Never did we imagine what purchasing our 2004 Gold Wing Trike would lead to. Although we initially bought it for RVing transportation, it lead to joining another group of wonderful people as part of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA) Chapter G - High Point, NC. I took the motorcycle safety course and immediately got my license. With safety in mind, Dianne also got her license - just in case we were on a trip and she needed to relieve me for a while.

With that said, after returning from her first solo ride, she said to me, "I like being a co-rider but I LOVE being the driver. The Trike is now mine - go buy yourself another bike." I now own a Honda Shadow so the two of us can ride together or with our GWRRA chapter as a group. As some of you will remember, we have used the Trike as a toad and taken advantage of riding our Trike and enjoying the countryside during our RVing experiences. We enjoy meeting monthly with GWRRA and also visiting other local chapters. We attended "Wings Over the Smokies" in Cherokee this past July (a GWRRA Rally) and participate in supporting the Murdoch Developmental Center in Butner, NC, which provides a home for individuals with intellectual disabilities. I volunteered in March 2015 to be the Newsletter Editor for our chapter. The newsletter is published monthly with local and regional news and I was honored August 2014 as Newsletter Editor of the month. This has become a big part of our life and we consider that we now have three families: Escapees Chapter 29, GWRRA Chapter G, and our own blood related family. It doesn't get much better than this.

Steve Wood SKP#113382

We took a two hour cruise (or flight) on the River Gorge Explorer owned by the Chattanooga Aquarium. Some "boat", 60 foot long and cost three million. Built in Washington, sailed through the Panama Canal and shipped by road to Chattanooga. Can do 60 mph and can stop dead in water in two ship lengths, which we did several times. Also can sit still in water and spin around in a circle, which we did (about three spins). It has four big Caterpillar engines. We saw the fresh water aquarium too. Impressive! Too tired to see the salt water aquarium, next time. Jim and Abigail both had sinus problems, Abby got a shot, Jim just suffered!

Jim & Linda Jackson SKP# 16911



TENNESSEE AQUARIU

(continued)

Where's Terri?????

Maybe we should title **Terri Wirtz's** travel adventures as "Where's Terri?"

August 5 - I am currently in Iowa until Monday. Need to decide where to next. Want to go to Wisconsin State Fair and visit Milwaukee friends, then back to IA for State Fair with my sisters, then head south. But also considering go to Indiana to have Forest River check on the roof. No rain yet so not sure if it will leak.



Terri Wirtz SKP#93910

(continued)

CANADIAN TRAVELS

Mary and I took a trip to Maine and Canada in September. It was her 50th high school reunion at Gould Academy, Bethel, ME. Below is a map and some photos from the Canada part of the trip. We stayed at the Pumpkin Patch RV Resort in Hermon, ME. Pumpkin Patch is the home of Escapee Chapter 3's annual Lobsterfest Rally in August. Y'all should try to attend at least once.

From Hermon, ME we drove to Fort Fairfield, ME and got gas before crossing into Canada. The gas station building was closed but the pumps were available 24 hours. However, the pumps only took exact cash, no change given. We then drove to Miramichi, New Brunswick and stayed at the Enclosure Campground. I would not recommend the road to anyone because it was not well maintained and was used mostly by logging trucks. Even my Ford F-350 based camper got shaken up several times. The next day we drove to Georgetown, Prince Edward Island and visited with Mary's distant cousin for 2 days. The have a a nice house on an inlet near Georgetown.

On Sept. 18th we took a 5 hour ferry to Les Îles de la Madeleine, Quebec for a 3 night package at La Salicorne. The package includes breakfast, a four course dinner, plus 3 scheduled outings each day. La Salicorne has a small campground plus hotel rooms. We had decided to splurge and go for the hotel rooms. That was a good decision because the camp rest rooms were closed for the season. The outings are designed for active travelers and included short hikes - 2 to 3 miles. One night we drove to an overlook to watch the sun set in the west. The next morning I decided to get up early - 5:30 - and drive onto Old Harry beach and watch the sunrise. See the photo below. The last day we took an all day tour of the different islands that make up Les Îles de la Madeleine.

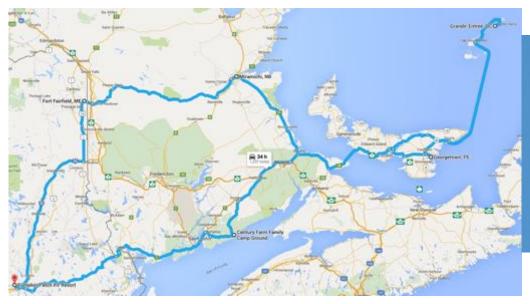
After taking the ferry back to PEI we drove Saint Martins, New Brunswick and stayed at the Century Farm Family Campground. The next day we returned to the Pumpkin Patch campground, washed clothes, and got ready for Mary's high school reunion.

As we rest at home in Aiken, SC and think about Christmas, we are starting to plan our 2016 trips. May each day be a new adventure to all of you.

Jon & Mary Lockwood SKP #109903

(continued)

Jon & Mary Lockwood SKP #109903









Waiting for the sunrise at 6:00 am at Old Harry beach

Enjoying lobster paté as part of the included four course dinner at La Salicorne.



Enjoying the Gulf of Saint Lawrence at Old Harry Beach - Grande-Entrée, Les Îles de la Madeleine,



CHI St. Luke's Health Clinic

Rick Hefner, Vice President of Physician Enterprise, announced the CHI St. Luke's Health Clinic will open on Wednesday, September 2, 2015, in "Pearl's Place" cottage near Escapees CARE Center, in Livingston, Texas.

The Clinic will be staffed Mondays and Wednesdays every week to serve all Escapees, including CARE residents, clients, residents of Rainbow's End and all Escapees traveling to Rainbow's End, or through Livingston.



They will honor Medicare, Medicaid, and most PPO insurance plans. Their prime focus will be on the entire Escapees membership, and they do not plan to advertise to non-Escapees.

CHI St. Luke's Health and Escapees CARE invites you to attend the Grand Opening on September 2, at 11:00 a.m. Come meet Dr. Le and, Nurse Practitioner Dusty Peterson. You can schedule an appointment and pick up wellness literature and general information about the clinic's services. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call the Escapees CARE Center at 936-327-4256 or visit www.escapeescare.org.

Russ Johnson #96114
Escapees CARE Director

Escapees CARE Meets Current Needs, Plans for the Future



The Escapees RV Club and Escapees CARE, Inc. continually seek ways to best meet the current and future needs of all Escapees. Most recently, we have added an easy-to-access Health Clinic, which is located in Pearl's Cottage on CARE property—a short distance from anywhere in the Rainbow's End Park. CHI St. Luke's Health Memorial Hospital staffs and operates this new health facility, which is currently open only on Mondays and Wednesdays solely for CARE Residents and all other Escapees. Based on usage, days can be added to the point of CHI St. Luke's Health eventually constructing a state-of-the-art building for full-time use.

The goal of this year's health fair was a large multi-purpose van capable of transporting wheelchairs and passengers. As more Escapees come to CARE, we see an increase in wheelchairs, especially powered chairs. Our wonderful volunteers, led by chairman, Solita Collard and co-chair, Carolee Day, exceeded all expectations with a wonderful program of health-and-wellness seminars, low cost medical screenings and presentations by local health care providers, auctions, and raffles, topped off with a delicious barbecue dinner. They were successful in purchasing a large Ford Transit Van with a wheelchair lift. The van can carry 9 passengers, plus two Wheelchair passengers. It is a welcome addition to our two aging vans.

Also looking ahead, the CARE Board approved a Long Term Plan developed by a select committee representing Rainbows End and CARE Residents and designed to meet the anticipated needs of future applicants to CARE. With all CARE sites currently occupied and a waiting list for seven more, the board approved the initial conversion of four Volunteer sites to Resident sites, thereby making room for four more residents by October, 2015, while still accommodating four volunteer teams. The plan also provides for construction of up to 13 more Resident sites, based on demand and available funds. This commitment indicates how Kay Peterson's vision will continue to live on through the dedication of current and future CARE Boards. However, these benefits require your involvement. Many chapters have generously supported CARE and many Escapees have donated individually and/or volunteered to help CARE and its Residents/Clients. But we always need additional Escapee members to join these efforts and become involved by donating time, money or both in whatever way they are able to do so.

If you can, become a part of the CARE community by volunteering for one month. If you can't volunteer, please follow the directions on this page to donate. (Some companies will match your donations or donate independently, if you volunteer for a 501(c)(3) such as CARE.) Or consider remembering CARE in your will as did Marion Bourke, a CARE Resident who generously left a bequest sufficient to provide a small building (which is planned to become the Marion Bourke Memorial) where our Residents and other Escapees can enjoy a craft/thrift store and/or workshops.

To learn more about Escapees CARE, Search for us on FACEBOOK, go to www.escapeescare.org, or come visit us at 155 CARE Center Drive, Livingston, TX 77351, and find out how you can "stay stronger and live longer" in your own rig on your site at CARE.

Russ Johnson #96114, Executive Director

Re-printed from RVillage Voice, October 2015.

The Development Team spent a lot of time this month working on bug fixes and system enhancements, but we're excited to share some new features with you as well:

A New Way to Connect with RVillagers

RVillage is all about connection, no matter where you are. Now, when someone checks into the same town as you (not just the RV Park you may be in), you'll be notified that someone "new" is in town. Why not send them a friendly message welcoming them to the neighborhood!

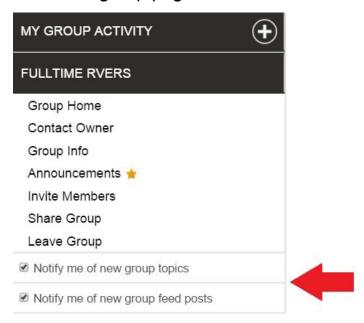
Improved Group Functions!

As many of you know, Groups are one of the most popular sections of the site, and recent engagement in this area has increased *significantly*.

A while back we added the "Group Feed" feature, giving each group its own home feed. Engagement is now easier than ever for our members! If you are the manager of a group, get your feed started today by posting related topic in your group feed. People sure are eager for the conversation!

We've found that many members also like to be notified when there are new messages on their Group Feed or Discussion Forum, so we've gone ahead and added that function as well.

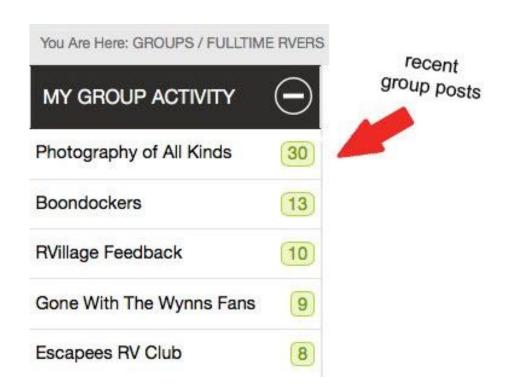
You can now *easily* set your notification preferences for each group you have joined. You will find these settings on the left of each group page:



(continued)

If your notifications are set to "on" you will only receive up to three e-notifications per day, per group. Try leaving them on and see how this suits your appetite (you can always change your settings later). The group feeds and activity have made a *huge*difference in our groups, and we are delighted to see so many lively discussions taking place.

Speaking of Groups, we also moved the "Group Activity" panel to each group homepage to make it easier for you to navigate. You can now access *all* of your groups from from the home page as well as each group's home page:



In Memoriam Dan McGowan, SKP# 114757

It is with sadness that we have lost one of our SKP Chapter 29 members. Dan passed away in August, 2015. Dan was a resident of West Columbia, South Carolina at the time of his passing.

Please keep his wife Sue in your prayers.



FOR SALE

2014 - Fleetwood - Bounder Classic (Bunkhouse unit)

Mileage: 6,000 ±

Warranty: All these are 50,000,or 5 years

• Ford chassis, and free road side assistance for major Ford installed parts.

· Bumper to bumper major parts extended coverage by Good Sam

· Travel Assurance coverage by Good Sam

Medical Assistance coverage by Good Sam

Roadside Assistance coverage by Good Sam

Digital tv antenna

Mobile DirecTV

5000 pound rated hitch for towing

Electronic brake system (required in all 50 states if towing over 3000 pounds)

Extra tinting to front windows to keep inside cooler when driving

Color Cameras both sides and back up.

Microwave/Convection oven Location: West Columbia, SC

Price: \$95,000 Firm

CONTACT: 803-331-9263





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Upcoming Events

2016 SKP ACRE

When: April 13-19, 2016

Where: River Plantation RV Resort

1004 Parkway Sevierville, TN

http://rvoutdoors.com/river-plantation/

President Steve Masterson

Fee: Camping - \$31.50 per night FHU

Rally - \$50.00 per person

Reservations: http://rvoutdoors.com/river-plantation/

800-758-5267

Identify yourself as a SKP member.

SKP Registration will begin January 1, 2016. You must be registered at River Plantation RV Resort prior to registering for SKP ACRE.

an RVC Outdoor Destination

RiverVista

Dillard, GA

<u> 2016 Spring Rally - Chapter 29</u>

When: May 5-8, 2016, with early arrivals May 1-4.

Where: River Vista RV Resort

20 River Vista Drive

Dillard GA

Co-Rally Masters: Susan & John Martin

Fee: We will be parked all together on Holiday Rambler Lane at a rally rate of

approximately \$37.60/night (20% off the rack rate). For those that want a larger site close to the rally building, the rate would be approximately

\$48.00/nite.

Reservations: http://www.rvmountainvillage.com

1-706-746-2722

Toll-free: 1-888-850-PARK (7275) Identify yourself as a SKP member.

Upcoming Events (continued)

56th Escapade - Essex Junction, VT

When: July 24-29, 2016

Where: Essex Junction, VT

Reservations/

Fee:

Please register on-line via <u>escapees.com</u>, select Escapade in the Menu for information, then select Escapade Registration for on-line

registration.

Register Early! The Champlain Valley Expo Center hosts the 56th Escapade; full-hook-up sites (30-amp electrical, water, and sewer) are very limited and 30-amp electrical service sites will go FAST, so make your reservation early to ensure your choice of amenity is available. Please visit registration information for details and pricing for the 56th Escapade.

Plan to join us for RV educational Seminars, RVers Boot Camp, SmartWeigh, entertainment, RV vendors, and much much more. Remember to get all of your updates on escapees.com.



Thank you and remember, please send all future submissions, travel news, member highlights, photo opts, and suggestions for the newsletter to me at _______. The deadline for our January issue will be January 6.

Dianne Wood V.P. & Newsletter Editor