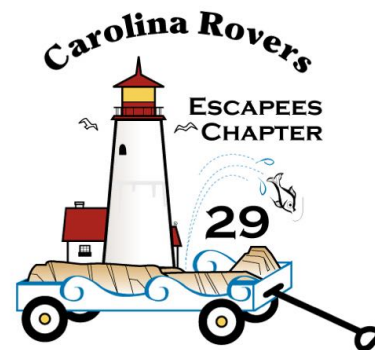


# ESCAPEES - CHAPTER 29 CAROLINA ROVERS JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER



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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Blessings

Yesterday (January 16, 2016) we had lunch at Cracker Barrel with some friends who I grew up with in Colonie, NY (suburb of Albany) who winter here in Florida. Some I had not seen in 42 years. Last week I went to a memorial service in Columbia, SC for Debbie Seaver who was a founding member of The Carolina Rovers who passed away suddenly the day after Christmas. The memorial service was sad and joyful as we celebrated her life. Last year I lost several close friends and members of the RV community. My story is no different from many of us who enjoy reuniting with past (vs old) friends and who may be struggling with loss but before y'all get depressed, I would like to turn it around and talk about "Blessings" as I write this on a Sunday morning. I am extremely blessed to have an awesome family who I love dearly and try to end every phone call the way my Son does with, "I love you". Kathy and I were pleasantly surprised two weeks ago when our 16 year old granddaughter gave us a hug and said, "I love you". I am extremely blessed to have Kathy in my life who is awesome and a blessing. I am blessed to have many friends in the RV community who I consider family and who share the gift and importance of hugs that is the benchmark of the Escapees RV Club. We are blessed to be members or past members of Chapter 29, one of the best chapters in the Escapees.

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# ***President's Message***

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Let me share with you how I start every day. When I get up and my feet touch the floor I thank God for the start of another awesome day and the fact that I woke up. Then I make the coffee, another gift from the gods. I fill my cup and after the first sip or two I begin to think about the day. During the day I try to touch base with my kids and close friends to catch up. Fast forward, when my head hits the pillow at the end of the day I thank God again for an awesome day. So you say, where is he going with this? Counting my blessings helps me to remain positive and forward looking. I am very blessed to know you and to share the lifestyle called "RVing".

Steve  
President, Chapter 29  
The Carolina Rovers

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## **2016 Chapter News**

As we enter 2016, I just wanted to summarize what's ahead.

April 13 – 19, 2016 SKP ACRE in Sevierville, TN. Rally fee is the same as last year at \$50 per person. You must first make your reservations with River Plantation, then go online and make your reservations with ACRE.

[www.skpacre.com](http://www.skpacre.com)

May 5 – 8, 2016 Chapter 29 Spring Rally in Dillard, GA at River Vista Mountain Village RV Resort, 706-746-2722. Kathy and I will be there from April 21 to May 21, 2016. Yep, we love the place. This year we will hold elections for President and Treasurer. Terri Wirtz has agreed to run again and I'm always open to handing off the role of President to someone. I need a volunteer to manage the election process. This person can not be an existing officer or spouse of an officer. Please email me if you can fill this role. We also need 3 people to serve on the Financial Review Committee to conduct a review. This is required annually. The role of this committee is to sit down with Terri and review her business process. Terri will tell the committee how she manages her role and the committee will be free to ask questions. At the conclusion, the committee will be asked to sign a form provided by SKP, Inc. Again, the members can not be an existing officer or spouse of an officer.

July 24 – 29, 2016 Escapee annual Escapade at the Champlain Expo in Essex Junction, VT.

Fall 2016 Chapter Rally - TBD

Steve  
President, Chapter 29  
The Carolina Rovers

# ***Member Special Interests***

***By Mac & Renae Shea #78019***

This is a second marriage for us. My daughter Lisa was 6 when we married, so Mac more or less raised her. We began camping almost right away. First out of the back of Mac's little Ford Ranger on the beach at St. Augustine & then with a pop-up. I think our first real vacation was to Townsend, Tn. & Smokie Mt. NP. We moved to a 30ft 5th wheel in 1990 & bought a membership to Thousand Trails. The 3 of us lived in this small space in 1993 while our house was being built. We are on our 4th 5th wheel & have been full timers since 2010 after selling our house & traveling from Fl. to Alaska. When we are "home in Fl." we are parked in our daughter's pasture right next to 3 of our 7 grandkids. We like to tell everyone our kids put us out to pasture. We love the RV life & look forward to hearing about everyone's adventures.

Happy New Year,  
Mac & Renae Shea #78019



Mac at Joshua Tree NP



Mac & Renae at Glasier NP

# **TRAVELER'S CORNER**

## **A Sister Thing in Lexington KY 2015**

**By Terri Wirtz #93910**

Some of you may know what it is like to have a sister. I am very lucky to know what it is like to have four sisters. We all enjoy getting together with each other, despite living in different states. In November 2015, two of my sisters joined me in Lexington KY for a few days. One drove from Iowa; one came with me and my two cats in the fifth wheel from NC.

Bernie and I arrived at Kentucky Horse Park Campground just after dark, picking a site near a streetlight. That and a flashlight helped get us backed in, despite the fallen leaves covering the concrete pad. Laureen arrived an hour later. In the morning, when I went to check in, I found out that our section was to be closed for the winter on the following Monday. Not a problem since we were leaving Monday.

Starting on Thanksgiving, the campground and the Park have a Christmas light show (\$7 per car to drive through). Many of the decorations were being put up. One night Laureen and I walked around the campground in the dark, turning on each display that was hooked up to a campsite electric boxes. We saw Cinderella, Mary Mary Quite Contrary, Santa in a stretch limo, a rocking horse factory, race horses and many more.

For the next four days, we had a marvelous time, immersing ourselves in horses, even though none of us are "horse people". On our first morning together, we just talked. What else did you expect from three women? Then we gathered ourselves together to tour the Kentucky Horse Park. The Breeders Cup races had been held the previous weekend with American Pharaoh winning his fourth major race of the year. With the season over, not much was going on at the Horse Park. We met Funny Cide, a New York-bred Kentucky Derby winner in the Hall of Champions, police mounts, a Belgian getting his summer shoes removed. The sun was starting to set by the time we got to the Man O'War statue.

The next day we drove back roads to see some magnificent horse farms on our way to the Headley-Whitney Museum where jewel-encrusted bibelots by jeweler George Headley and large dollhouses, replicas of the main and guesthouses of Mary Lou and Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney, were on display. No photos allowed inside. Then we headed over to Keeneland Race Track where we found a huge horse auction in progress.

The first week in November is one of the four major sales held here during the year. We missed the first day when horses were selling for up to \$6 million, but we were very impressed with all the mares and colts we saw that were bringing prices of anywhere from \$1500 to \$300,000. Most of the mares were pregnant so the buyers were getting a "two-fer"

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# **TRAVELER'S CORNER**

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were prancing around waiting to go to the stage for their 2-minute showing. Available were free descriptive catalogs of all the horses, each covering 2 days of sales, about 1-1/2" thick with one horse per page. We never knew there were so many thoroughbred horses for sale!

One of the reasons for going to Keeneland, other than just to see a real horserace track, was the Lexington Visitors Center Scavenger Hunt. We were each given a photocopy of a blue horse called Big Lex. A clue list of 10 locations in the Lexington area told us where to take photos with our photocopy to get a "small prize." That was how we saw the Lexington Public Library, the Hunt-Morgan house, Transylvania University, the Castlewood house, Lexington Cemetery where Henry Clay and hundreds of other Kentuckians are buried, and the Red Mile Racetrack (harness racing/off-track betting and casino). Our last stop on Sunday afternoon was Ashland, Henry Clay's home, where we had a wonderful tour.

Besides the Scavenger Hunt locations, we toured the childhood home of Mary Todd Lincoln and the Old Kentucky Chocolate house, where we ate many free samples. Not being fans of whiskey, we skipped the seven distilleries on the Bourbon trail.

We said our good-byes on Monday and took our long trips home. We had such a good time, we may have to do it again someday.



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# TRAVELER'S CORNER

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# **TRAVELER'S CORNER**

## **Thanksgiving in Savannah, GA** **By Dianne & Steve Wood #113382**

AH! - Thanksgiving - a time for family and friends gathering around a large table, giving thanks for all of our blessing and enjoying the day. UNLESS you are us, in which case you decide to pack the RV, meet up with your cousin and his wife (Bucky and Brenda) and hit the road heading to Savannah, GA for Thanksgiving.

It was a spur of the moment trip and sometimes I think that's the best way to go. We meet up with Bucky and Brenda who have a tag along and left for Savannah South KOA. We arrived on 11/24. We spent most of the day just enjoying the campground and it's lovely lake - complete with Canadian geese and swans. The evening was topped off with filet mignon on the grill and dinner under the stars.

Wednesday found us in downtown Savannah walking the streets along the river (no, I didn't say we were street walkers), eating lunch at Paula Dean's restaurant. Although the food was good, there was too much fried food there - even for Southerners like us. The weather was beautiful and almost 80 degrees. We couldn't have ask for better.

The next day, Thanksgiving, the campground staff cooked a Thanksgiving luncheon complete with turkey, dressing, multiple vegetables, and more desserts than you could imagine. We obviously had no need for dinner that night because the food was sooooo good for lunch. We just sat around a fireplace and talked about how lucky and blessed we were to be able to travel, enjoy a great Thanksgiving meal with new friends from the campground and enjoy the company of family.

Friday we took one of the trolly tours of downtown Savannah. I recommend these types of tours to everyone. Where else could you get to enjoy all of downtown while hearing about the rich history of Savannah. We've included a picture of St. John the Baptist Catholic Cathedral which is a MUST if you're ever in Savannah. The evening brought us back to the campground for lots and lots of steamed shrimp! YUM and more time around the fireplace.

On Saturday, our family left to head back to Winston-Salem and Steve and I set out to visit Tybee Island lighthouse and Tybee island beach and pier. We stopped by the Tybee Island campground and decided we wanted to return to spend more time there. It's small but the hosts were very friendly and we liked the "laid back atmosphere."

Sunday was a "take it easy day" and we took a leisurely visit to Fort Pulaski. If you visit here, especially at Fort Pulaski, just remember that the mosquito is the state bird - so come prepared with lots of spray! HAHA We topped off the evening with seafood and an early evening.

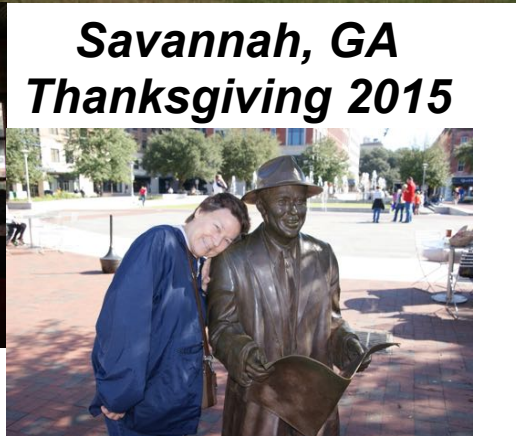
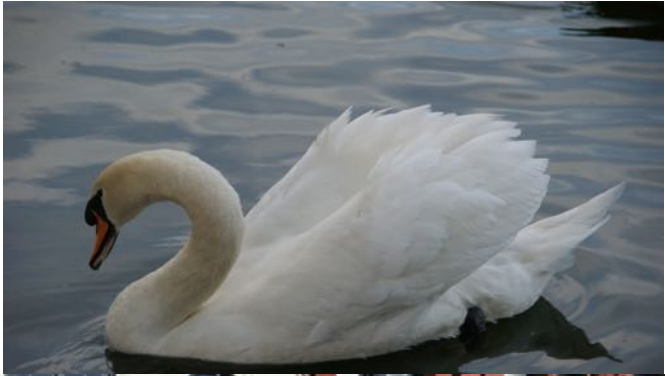
Monday was bittersweet because we left Savannah and all of our great memories (captured in 100's of pictures) and dream of the next trip back to that area, and hopefully next time to Tybee Island.

Dianne & Steve Wood  
#113382

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# TRAVELER'S CORNER

(continued)



**Savannah, GA  
Thanksgiving 2015**



# TRAVELER'S CORNER

## Where's Steve Masterson & Kathy Werth?????

I know that Steve and Kathy are notorious for traveling EVERYWHERE having fun but I'm sure they wouldn't agree that moving was fun. We wish them well - wherever they may be. What's this I hear about y'all having strawberry shortcake for dinner?

Dianne Wood #113382  
Newsletter Editor



## ***RV TIPS***

We bought these solar lights at Bed Bath and Beyond. They mount with screws but I used industrial Velcro and it works fine without drilling holes. You can see steps and key hole in the dark even if you forgot to turn on outside light.

Jim & Linda Jackson #16911



Remember that we want you to submit your tips and hints for camping. No matter whether you have traveled for years or whether you're a green horn and just now beginning your RV adventures, there's always plenty to learn and share with others. Send all submissions directly to my email so they can be included in future additions.

Dianne Wood #113382



## ***Let Me Hear From You***

As we start another year, I think back on all of the fun times we've shared. Although we're not full timers, we love to hit the road and meet up with our Chapter 29 friends. For us, our first trip was the 2015 Spring Rally in Sevierville, TN, followed by SKP ACRE, also at Sevierville. Next was an impromptu gathering of friends in Palmetto Cove, Cleveland, SC. As our Class A was "still" in the repair shop, we stayed at another campground 1 mile away in a cabin but spent our entire days (and dinners, and wine tastings) with our friends. Our last Chapter #29 trip was the Fall Rally in Four Oaks, NC - during the Southern Monsoon season! You gotta love the rain - but that didn't stop us from having a great time visiting and eating and meeting and welcoming 5 new couples to our Chapter. Our final trip was with Steve's cousin and wife to Savannah South KOA, GA for Thanksgiving. We're now planning our first extended trip in March to Pensacola, FL, Fort Polk, LA, Sevierville, TN, and Dillard, GA. I even spent one night not sleeping because I was mentally packing the RV. Excited? You Bet! I can't wait.

We hope you are also gearing up for more adventurers during 2016. Please remember to send me pictures of your travels along with stories. I enjoy "traveling" with you through your experiences and would like to share them in the upcoming newsletters. Send all submissions directly to my email.

Happy and Safe Travels

Dianne Wood, #113382

V.P. & Newsletter Editor Chapter 29

The Carolina Rovers



# Senior Humor

- I am a Seenager. (Senior teenager)
- I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later.
- I don't have to go to school or work.
- I get an allowance every month.
- I have my own pad.
- I don't have a curfew.
- I have a driver's license and my own car.
- I have an ID that gets me into bars and the wine store. I like the wine store best.
- The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, they aren't scared of anything, they have been blessed to live this long, why be scared.
- And I don't have acne.
- Life is Good! Also, you will feel much more intelligent after reading this, if you are a Seenager.
- Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe this also makes you hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear.
- Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full, so too, do humans take longer to access information when their brains are full.
- Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem, it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

and finally,

**Happy New Year  
&  
Happy 2016**

Author Unknown

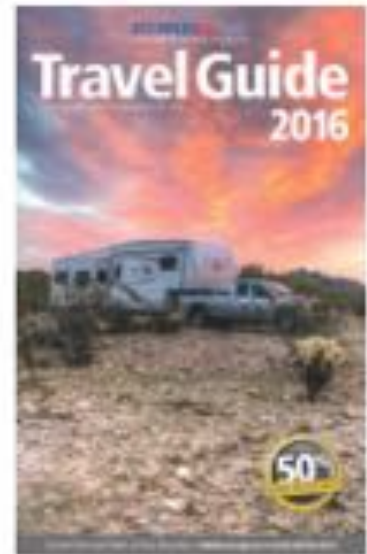


## Escapees Discount Parks Program

### We Need You!

Escapees RV Club has an extensive discount parking network that offers 15%-50% off at nearly 1,000 participating RV parks. All you have to do is show your Escapees membership card to receive a discount off your stay.

The discount parks program is a tremendous benefit of the Escapees membership. While the program is continuously expanding, the overall goal is to add as many parks to the system as possible for you to enjoy. We need your help to accomplish this! The discount parks program is driven by Escapees members, so be sure to ask every campground if they offer an Escapees discount, and be sure to thank them if they do.



If you visit a park that doesn't offer a discount, ask them if they would like to be included; then just send us their contact information ([clubbusiness@escapees.com](mailto:clubbusiness@escapees.com)) and we will do the rest. Just one simple contact could add another park to the system that will save you 15%-50% on your overnight stay! They'll, in turn, get lots of free publicity that helps them fill up sites that might otherwise be unused.

Don't forget to keep your *Escapees Travel Guide* handy while on the road to locate discount parks. You can download the PDF version or view the online flipbook version by visiting the [Escapees website](#). You can also use the [Escapees park locator](#) on your mobile device to find the nearest discount park, one further up the road, or at your final destination, and then navigate there with the ease of turn-by-turn navigation.



# Chapter 29 in Celebration of Debby Seaver January 7, 2016



**“Remembering the Good Times.....”**



# ***In Memoriam***

## ***Debby Seaver, SKP# 106149***

**Seaver, Deborah Ann, RN** (Bob #106149), 529 Great North Road, Columbia, SC 29223. Debby went home to be with the Lord on December 26, 2015. She and Bob were married for 45 wonderful years. She was a nurse of 35 years, always caring for others before herself; working in intensive care at Baptist Medical Center, Columbia SC as well as serving as a staff nurse in the 130th station hospital in Heidelberg, Germany. Debby loved to spend time with her family including three children and her eight grandchildren. She was a great cook and she and Bob enjoyed traveling in their motorhome. They made several trips across the country including a trip to Alaska fulfilling a lifelong dream. She was an avid reader, enjoyed wildlife, and was loved by many. She was instrumental in restarting Escapees Chapter 29 - Carolina Rovers in 2011. Debby will be remembered for her radiant smile, warm personality, selfless attitude, willingness to help and zest for life. She will be dearly missed by her family and her extended Escapees family. Debby's favorite saying was:



***"Happiness isn't about waiting for the storm to pass.  
It's about learning to dance in the rain."***



# FOR SALE

## 2014 Itasca Meridian 42E

Price: \$250,000 NEG

Length: 42'

Mileage: 16k

DIESEL you will go far with less money

Slides: 3

Sleeps: 4

Features:

- 3 TVs (2 inside, 1 outside)
- Leather Couch, Converts to Queen Sleeper
- Washer & Dryer, Front Load
- Convection Microwave
- Fireplace
- Satellite with GPS
- Queen Sleep by Number Bed
- 100 Gallon Fresh Water Tank
- Outside Refrigerator/Freezer
- 100 Gallon Fuel Tank
- Residential Full Size Refrigerator w/ French Doors
- 1.5 Bath (Master Bath w/ Full Size Stand Up Shower)

And many more! Must See!!

**Contact Information:** [REDACTED]



# For Sale

## 2014 Itasca Meridian 42E

(continued)



# Upcoming Events

## 2016 SKP ACRE

**When:** April 13-19, 2016

**Where:** River Plantation RV Resort  
1004 Parkway  
Sevierville, TN



**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.*

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## 2016 Spring Rally - Chapter 29

**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  
Steve Masterson & Kathy Werth

**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)



# Upcoming Events

(continued)

## 56th Escapade - Essex Junction, VT

When: July 24-29, 2016

Where: Essex Junction, VT

Reservations/  
Fee: Please register on-line via [escapees.com](http://escapees.com), 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](http://escapees.com).



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**Thank you and remember, please send all future submissions, travel news, member highlights, photo opts, and suggestions for the newsletter to me at [REDACTED]. The deadline for our April issue will be **April 1.****

**Dianne Wood**  
**V.P. & Newsletter Editor**