



**ESCAPEES - CHAPTER 29  
 CAROLINA ROVERS  
 OCTOBER 2016  
 NEWSLETTER**




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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

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**Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head**

To quote a very smart woman, "I thought we earned our water badge last year!" That's what Marie Rickenbach said as the officers discussed plans for the 2016 Fall Rally in Charleston as Hurricane Matthew was gaining strength in the Caribbean Sea to a category 4.

Flashback to our first rally in Concord, NC and last year in Four Oaks, NC when we had soooooo much rain BUT, we had fun. In the fall 2011 we held our first rally at Apollo RV Park in Concord, NC. We had nice sites with lots of space and a great turn out but we lacked a few amenities like a covered or enclosed pavilion. Yep, that was my fault. Then it started raining and raining and raining. One of the many qualities of RVers and especially members of our chapter, is that we have our fair share of MacGyvers. Next thing I know I see canopies being erected between two motorhomes and rain gutters being bungeed together to carry the water away from the picnic tables. The owners, Fletch and Betty Little felt so bad for us that they emptied their garage and allowed us to move in there for our covered dish dinner. It was then that we realized that the roof had many holes in it. Every time we were faced with a new challenge, people stepped up and we overcame the rain. Then last year in Four Oaks, NC again it rained and rained and rained. Are we seeing a theme here? By then we smartened up and had a beautiful, enclosed rec room with a full kitchen, heat, AC and the owners made Belgian waffles for breakfast. Nice.

(Continued on next page)

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

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# ***President's Message***

(continued)

In Charleston, 6 or 7 rigs arrived a week early as we normally do. We went out to dinner, toured the city and yes, watched the Weather Channel. I had two concerns. One, how was the hurricane going to impact the rally and two, how was it going to impact our house in Stuart, FL. Yicks. As the hurricane approached Cuba as a cat 4, it became evident that the potential for a significant event was approaching. We first had to think about the safety of our members and decided to cancel the rally. So yes, we have earned our water badge several times and look forward to a partly sunny sky at our spring 2017 rally.



## ***Message From Your Editor***

I make it a habit not to talk about controversial topics in our newsletters - after all, we get enough of that through the media. However, I would like to ask you all to do one very important thing next month - VOTE. Our nation is going through some very troubling times including terror attacks, racial issues, hunger, poverty, immigration concerns, taxes, education, and the list goes on and on. We all have our opinions and differences, but it is our ability to come together to resolve these issues that makes us such a great nation. Please take an active part in determining the direction of our country by voting.

Safe Travels to All  
Dianne Wood - SKP# 113382  
VP & Newsletter Editor  
Chapter #29 - Carolina Rovers.



# **“THE RALLY THAT WASN’T”**

## **2016 FALL RALLY**

### **CHARLESTON, SC**

As you all know by now, we had really bad timing for our 2016 Fall Rally. Several members arrived at Oak Plantation early and actually were able to spend a couple of good weather days touring downtown Charleston, enjoying meals together, and visiting the Angel Tree.

We arrived on Monday “hoping” that Hurricane Matthew would swing east into the Atlantic and leave us alone. However, that was not to be the case. At least for a couple of days we were able to enjoy each other’s company and enjoyed a meal at the Harvest Moon. By mid-day Tuesday, however, we had decided that it was too dangerous and we formally cancelled our rally. Non the less, this turned out to be a good decision because the governor of South Carolina announced a mandatory evacuation and by Wednesday Oak Plantation had “kicked us out of the campground”.

I’m glad to announce that all who had attended our non-rally left early enough to miss most of the traffic, including Steve and Kathy who headed south to batten down the hatches in their Florida home. All arrived safely at their destinations and we’re happy all were safe from the storm. Perhaps we can try Charleston again - before hurricane season begins! We have saved all of the great “old” pictures that were emailed to me and will have the “guessing game” during our Spring Rally. We will additionally gather pictures for spring rally attendees that we did not get during the Fall Rally preparations.

As a result of the cancellation, we had a meeting of the officers which is provided on the next page.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Rally in Asheboro, NC, and wish you all safe travels.



***Escapees Chapter 29 - Carolina Rovers***  
***Minutes of Meeting 10/3/16***  
***(Fall Rally - Charleston, SC)***

Steve Masterson and Dianne Wood met to discuss weather conditions in Charleston, SC, pending the predicted track for Hurricane Matthew. Marie Rickenbach, Terri Wirtz, and Keith Martin who had not yet arrived at Oak Plantation campground were contacted via cell phone.

It was our decision that the safety of our members was the first priority and, therefore, we decided to formally cancel the Fall Rally which was supposed to have been held 10/6-9.

Dianne Wood forwarded an email 10/3/16 to all registered rally attendees announcing our decision and for those that had not responded by 10/4/16 9:00am, we called them and personally talked to them.

All events (Camping World Dessert Social and the Spirit Line Cruise) were cancelled. No expenditures was involved in either event.

The “old time picture” guessing game will be held over until the Spring Rally.

All rally supplies and the chapter banner will be taken by Steve Wood to the Spring Rally 2017 at Asheboro, NC Zooland RV Campground where Marie and Craig Rickenbach and Terri Wirtz will co-host.

We want to extend our thanks to Norman and Carol Lowrance who were co-hosting with Steve and Dianne Wood.

All decisions above were approved by all officers.

Submitted by  
Dianne Wood  
VP Escapees Chapter 29

# ***Summary of the 2016 Escapade Chapter and BoF Officers Meeting***

At each Escapade time is set aside for Chapter and BoF Officers to meet with SKP, Inc staff to discuss current and future issues. This year three topics were discussed.

**Social Network** –The Social Network was created by SKP, Inc in 2014 to establish a Not-for-Profit organization for Chapters and Certified BoFs to enroll in, get a federal ID (EIN) and gain not-for-profit status. Chapter officers were first made aware of the Social Network in December 2014. Since 2014 Chapters have been working with SKP, Inc to fulfill this obligation. So, what does this mean to me, a member of Chapter 29? At the moment, nothing unless you are an officer who has to provide the information for the annual fillings. One comment made at the meeting and restated in the minutes that might impact chapter members is “We (SKP, Inc) strongly encourage all Chapters and C (Certified) BOFs to seek their own accountants and attorneys if they have any questions.” In our lifetime, many of us have had to hire an attorney and we know that they always require a retainer before doing any work. Chapter 29 averages 50 members and has an annual income of \$250.00. For us to hire our own accountant and attorney is not possible. So, I am not sure what the future brings. This worries me.

**Reinvigorating the Advisory Council** – Back in the day, Joe Petersen (Co-Founder of SKP, Inc) established an Advisory Council that helped SKP, Inc brainstorm ways to grow and remain vibrant. Joe attended the meetings and one idea that was implemented was the creation of Commercial Members. Today, SKP, Inc wants to reestablish this group that will be made up of six regions and meet monthly. The monthly meetings will be facilitated by Shawn Loring CEO, Dortha and Mark Hall Chapter/BoF Directors and senior staff. Not listed were members of the Board of Directors, President, Vice President and Directors. This idea was well received and as of this printing, SKP, Inc hopes to have more details in place by the March 2017 Escapade. I sincerely hope that the President and Vice President will be included in this process to hear first hand what is discussed at the meetings like Joe did. For those of us who served as scout masters with the Boy or Girl Scouts might remember a game we played to show the scouts how communications might change when it passes from one person to another. We used it to show the scouts how information changes as it's shared and ends up being gossip. For those who don't remember it goes like this.

(Continued on next page)

# ***Summary of the 2016 Escapade Chapter and BoF Officers Meeting (continued)***

Have everyone sit in a large circle. The leader whispers a phrase or short sentence to the person on their left. That person whispers what they heard to the next player to the left, and so on. The last player to receive the message should repeat what the message is. The leader then repeats the original message which is often very different from the last person's message.

**Quarterly Chapter Call** – SKP, Inc plans to facilitate a quarterly video or conference call with the Chapter/BoF Directors (Dortha and Mark Hall), Advisory Council, Senior Staff and Chapter and BoF Presidents. Not specifically listed Shawn Loring, CEO although he may be included in the “Senior Staff”. The purpose of this call is yet to be determined by SKP, Inc and the Advisory Council.

Steve Masterson, #95338  
President, Chapter 29, Carolina Rovers



# 2016 Escapade Essex Junction, Vermont

If you weren't able to attend the 2016 Escapade in Essex Junction, Vermont, you missed a good time! Many opportunities were provided for Educational Seminars, Boot Camp, Smart Weight, a great line up of RV Vendors, new RVs for those in the shopping mode, fantastic evening entertainment, special activities for little Xscapers, and a chance to make many new friends as well as reconnect with old ones. We couldn't have asked for a better event or better weather!

Below are some pictures from our activities, but even these do not convey the beauty of the area and the good times had by all.

*Enjoy!*



Arial View of The Champlain Valley Expo Center & fair grounds.



# 2016 Escapade Essex Junction, Vermont (continued)

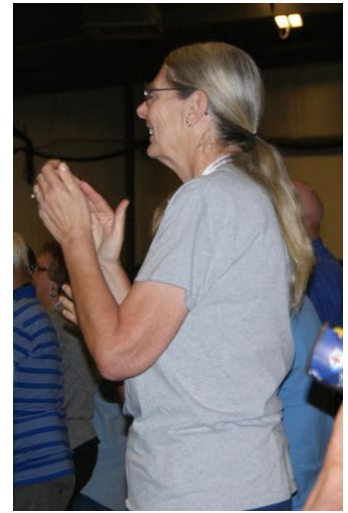


Parade of Banners





# 2016 Escapade Essex Junction, Vermont (continued)



Solos having fun. Can you spot the Chapter 29 member?



New Chapter 29 Members



# Who We Are

In our July 2016 newsletter we ran a story about how Chapter 29 was rejuvenated and a little of it's history. Below you will find pictures of the first rally in Concord, NC in 2011. Enjoy!



The original officers (from left to right), Norman Lowrance - VP, Kaye Heins - Secretary, Bob Seaver - President, Kathy Wheale - Treasurer.



# Who We Are (continued)



# Who We Are (continued)



# ***Who We Are (continued)***



The only picture I have is the picture I took of my P/U truck after I was rear-ended going to dinner the first night. It was raining cats-and-dogs the night we pulled in, so we didn't go out with the group. The next night, Kaye & Erwin were riding with us to go out to a Chinese buffet. When getting on the on-ramp to the interstate, a drunk 21 year old came up behind me doing 60-70 mph and crashed into my rear end. Carol had a mild concussion and our truck was totaled. Fortunately, no major injuries and we went on to dinner. ***We Escapees are a flexible bunch.***

Keith Martin, SKP#97531



# Congratulations!!!!



*We are happy to announce*

*The marriage of*

*Bob Seaver*

*and*

*Linda Stephen*

*October 15, 2016*

*Newberry, South Carolina*

# Travel Tips

Below are some tips on travel logs provided by some of our members. If you would like a copy of the Excel Spread shown below from Keith Martin, please let me know and I will email you a copy.

To the right is a spread sheet I made up when we first bought our motorhome. I keep a notebook with blank pages next to the driver's seat in the motorhome to make sure I update it at each stop. I find it invaluable to go back and see where we have been and stayed, but also mileages from one place to the other. Maybe some of our members (particularly those new to RVing would be interested in it.... The file is set up to print out in Landscape orientation.

DATE	LOCATION		RV PARK	MILES DRIVEN			TOTAL
	FROM	TO		START	END	SUBTOTAL	

Keith Martin, SKP#97531

I used a spreadsheet for many years for RV Parks, Restaurants, Dr.s, RV Repair facilities, Yoga Studios, Line Dancing Halls and Hair salons.

Today I use Google Maps. LOL When I find a place, I click on the "SAVED" button. Then click on the 3 dots in the upper right corner, then click on "add label". Then I type in my notes about the place. I'm good to go as long as Google is in business. LOL

Steve Masterson, SKP #95338

Believe it or not we still do it the old fashioned way on paper. Sue keeps a travel "diary" of our trips - where we stayed, restaurants we liked, etc. It's fun to go back and read and useful when we go back the same way.

John & Susan Martin, SKP #107876

# Safety Travel Tips

Attached are links to two videos concerning tire blowout on a Motorhome. The first is of a Motorhome on September 14, 2016, having a blowout while traveling on I-26. The second is a video of what to do should you have a blowout. For many of us, this is a reminder of what to do and for some it may be the first time seeing this.

You know the old saying, " Practice makes . . .". **No.** Not perfect. **Practice makes habit.** Hopefully seeing and hearing about this will reinforce the "habit" to remember what to do with a blowout.

Hugs  
Steve Masterson SKP #95338

<http://m.wyff4.com/news/video-rv-loses-tire-on-i26-in-spartanburg-county/41664430>



<https://youtu.be/lkwOE1yKY5c>





## New and Improved Escapes Maps



Escapes RV Club thanks each member who offered their feedback and suggestions during the beta test of our new mapping tool. We are excited to announce that it has been revamped with a new look and better functionality for a more user-friendly experience.

### **Search a Location, Plan a Trip, and GO!**

This is not just another online mapping tool. We made the Escapes Maps specifically for you! It is the best way to find your membership savings for discount parks and commercial members, along with Overnight Parking with your fellow SKPs. We even integrated our Job Board to help you find work opportunities to meet your travel needs.

## New and Improved Escapees Maps (Continued)

- Discount Parking-- Nearly 1,000 discount parks offer members 15% to 50% off! You are sure to find campground savings during your travels.
- Commercial Members-- Need to find a service or product? Our commercial members are there to meet your needs.
- Jobs-- We even integrated our job board so you can search for jobs that meet your travel needs.
- Overnight Parking-- In this section, you will find overnight parking offered by members.

### We're not done yet!

Over the coming months, we will continue to improve the functionality and listings of the mapping tool. Soon members can submit and share treasured destinations such as boondocking, free camping, and things to do. We are also working hard to make the experience more mobile-friendly for an easy and accessible way to plan your travels.

We are excited to add this new tool to your arsenal, making your lifestyle that much easier.

Let us guide you to your destination by visiting: [Escapees Maps](#)

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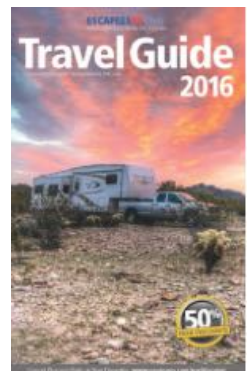
## Escapees Discount Parks Program

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 free 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 Escapees Maps 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. To get started, visit: [Escapees Maps](#).





# Upcoming Events

## 2017 Spring Rally - Chapter 29

**When:** April 20 - 23, 2017; Rates apply to early arrivals and extended stays.

**Where:** Zooland Family Campground  
3671 Pisgah Covered Bridge Rd.  
Asheboro, NC 27205



**Co-Rally Masters:** Craig & Marie Rickenbach  
Terri Wirtz



**Rates:** \$31.05 / night (10% off rack rate)  
25 sites have been reserved all together w/FHU

**Reservations:**

- Individuals are responsible for their own reservations and identify yourself as a member of Escapees Carolina Rovers.
- Unreserved sites will be released two weeks prior to rally.
- Site numbers will not be assigned until arrival.
- After you register, please send the Co-Rally Masters an email to let us know you plan to attend.
- <http://www.zoolandfc.com>  
336-381-3422

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## 2017 SKP ACRE

**When:** April 26 - May 2, 2017

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



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

**President** Steve Masterson

**Fee:** Camping - \$32.00 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, 2017. You must be registered at River Plantation RV Resort prior to registering for SKP ACRE.*

# ***Upcoming Events***

## **57th Escapade, Tucson, AZ March 19-24, 2017**

Mark your calendars and plan to be in the desert southwest next spring as the 57th Escapade returns to Tucson, AZ, March 19-24, 2017.

Pima County Fairgrounds promises a warm welcome once again, with major renovations to their buildings, improvement to their cellular towers as well the addition of new campground sites, many with full hook ups.



A long-favored winter destination, Tucson is popular and well-received by Escapees members. Plan to enjoy a week of educational fun, exciting entertainment and busy days of comradery with fellow RVers in the sunny desert southwest!

Registration will be available soon. Save the date for an unforgettable 57th Escapade with your SKP friends in Tucson!

