



# ESCAPEES - CHAPTER 29 CAROLINA ROVERS APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

### Changes in the Escapees

In March 2015, Travis and Melanie Carr founded the Xscapers, “a lifestyle group of the Escapees RV Club, focused on supporting the needs of a new generation of RVers . . . a new generation of RVers who have not yet retired and who have already, or are aspiring to, hit the road pursuing a full-time or part-time nomadic lifestyle.” In essence Travis and Melanie reached back to their roots as established by Travis’s grandparents, Joe and Kay Carr, the founders of the Escapees RV Club. Along with the group come new words, terms and changes within the Escapees RV Club. Terms like “Convergences”, “Webinars”, “Blogs” and “Virtual Campfires”.

Convergences – From what I read, Convergences are gatherings with dates, no or little fee, no or minimal agenda typically include activities for kids and a 6PM Social. It appears that anyone can suggest a Convergence by contacting Travis & Melanie or posting it to the Xscapers group page, and then if arrangements can be made, they are brought to life. Anybody can create a community get-together by posting it to the Xscapers Facebook Group or RVillage.com.

Webinars – These are new and available to all Escapees on YouTube. They are very informative.

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# ***President's Message***

(continued)

Blogs – Many people use Blogs to share their travels and lifestyles.

Virtual Campfires – This is the term they use for the multiple social media venues that they use like Facebook and RVillage.

I encourage you to visit these sites and see what is happening in the Xscapers. For me it is like an expanding family. As my kids had kids things in my life changed. At first it may feel like we are losing control and we are, in a good way. As the years pass, the kids are hosting the holiday functions and we get to sit back and enjoy things a little more. Next thing you know you are looking at an open invitation to participate in a 5K run, like what happened in Burlington last year. I responded yes, I will pass out water or drive the rescue vehicle or help watch the kids or help with the finish party.

So, what is my point? I encourage you to share the Xscapers information with your kids, your nieces and nephews, your extended, blended families and friends. This is a great way for everyone to become a member of our awesome RV family.

Steve Masterson  
President

Before finishing this article, I asked Travis and Melanie to review it for accuracy and to provide a quote. I am very pleased to include their contribution.

“Continuing on Escapees values and goals will always be our number one priority. This is what made Xscapers easy for us to create, because we were simply bringing things back full circle to how things were when Joe & Kay created the club. It's been a fun two years for us and we've really enjoyed growing Xscapers and bringing new and exciting things on board. We're creating job opportunities to help non-retirees enjoy this amazing lifestyle and providing a community for them along the way. We of course, would be nothing without the support of the members and we have really appreciated all of the kind words along the way! In the end, Xscapers are Escapees, so it's incredible to see our family expand as we continue to grow this lifestyle group.”

Melanie Carr  
Escapees RV Club | Vice President  
March 13, 2017



# 2017 Spring Rally - Chapter 29

We haven't really had a bad winter yet and I'm already ready to pack the RV and head to Asheboro. You can find all of the information regarding campsite registration at Zooland in Asheboro on page 21. Marie and Craig Rickenbach and Terri Wirtz, our co-hosts, have a great time planned for us and I know you'll find plenty of interesting places to visit while there or just kick your feet up at Zooland and enjoy the company of your Chapter 29 family. You don't have to be a member of Chapter 29 to join, so plan on visiting with us - we'd love to have you.

Below are some pictures provided to us by our co-hosts as a "teaser" of what's to come.

Dianne Wood  
VP & Newsletter Editor



Welcome to Zooland



The Lodge at Zooland



Porch of the Lodge at Zooland



Mini Gold at Zooland

# 2017 Spring Rally - Chapter 29

(continued)



NC Pottery Center Museum



Seagrove Creations



Inside Seagrove Creations



Seagrove Creations Front Porch



Mural from Downtown Asheboro

# 2017 Spring Rally - Chapter 29

(continued)



Mural Downtown Asheboro



Pisgah Covered Bridge



Local Golf Club

***Don't delay - make your reservations TODAY!!!***

# Escapees Chapter 29 Spring Rally

April 20 -23, 2017

Zooland Family Campground 3671 Pisgah Covered Bridge Road, Asheboro, NC 27205  
336-381-3422

Thursday April 20, 2017

- 1:30 - 2:30 PM Chapter 29 Officers Meeting
- 4:30 - 5:30 PM Registration and Social Hour (BYO Snack/Drink)
- 5:30 PM Dinner on your own
- 7:30 PM Campfire (weather permitting)

Friday April 21, 2017 HAPPY SAN JACINTO DAY!!!!

- 8:30 AM Coffee, Juice, Bagels and Donuts. (Bring your own cups, plates and flatware)
- 9:00-10:00 AM General Members meeting. Election of officers, Vice President and Treasurer
- NOON If you are in the campground, you are invited to bring your lunch to the porch of the lodge.
- AFTERNOON Games available in Lodge
- 4:30 - 5:30 PM Social Hour Odd # Escapees bring snacks; Everyone bring your own beverage  
Bring Scavenger Hunt items to Social Hour for Prizes
- 6:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner. Tex-Mex theme. Dessert provided. Bring your own drinks, plates, and flatware.
- 7:30 PM Campfire (weather permitting)

Saturday April 22, 2017

- 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Catered Breakfast
- \*
- 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Social Hour Even # Escapees bring snacks; Everyone bring your own beverage
- 6:00 PM Catered Dinner (Positano Italian Restaurant); Everyone bring your own beverage?
- 7:30 PM Campfire (weather permitting)

Sunday April 23, 2017

- 8:30 - 9:30 AM Coffee and ????
- Hook up and leave

\* We intentionally left a large block of time open on Saturday after breakfast to allow time to participate in the Seagrove Potters 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Kiln Openings and Studio Tours. It is a big event in the area and about 75 potters participate. The hours are from 9AM to 5 PM Saturday and 1PM to 5 PM on Sunday. Beginning at 11AM on Saturday there will be FREE Hot Dogs and Coffee available at Seagrove Creations (the pottery information center located east of Exit 61 from I-73 & 74). Games will be available in Lodge for those who do not want to go Potter shopping.

## Editor's Note:

A list of restaurants, things to do in Asheboro, and things to do in Central North Carolina will be provided upon arrival at Zooland. Thank you Marie & Craig Rickenbach and Terri Wirtz for hosting our 2017 Spring Rally.

# 2017 Spring Rally



April 20 - 23, 2017



*Remember - if you are planning on attending the Spring Rally in Ashboro, please contact one of the following co-hosts and let them know you are attending in order for them to prepare for the proper number of attendees. If you have already notified them - Thank You!*

**Marie & Craig Rickenbach**

[goldfinch7@aol.com](mailto:goldfinch7@aol.com)

**Terri Wirtz**

[terriwirtz@gmail.com](mailto:terriwirtz@gmail.com)



# **TRAVELER'S CORNER**

## ***Camping Is Just In Our Blood***

**Marie Rickenbach SKP #72083**

For some of us camping is just in our blood. Like many of us I started camping in a tent. Before the driver's license it was a heavy canvas Baker tent in my parent's back yard. After the driver's license it was an orange nylon pup tent. Then came the weekend at the beach when afternoon thunderstorms flooded the tent. The following week I bought a pickup truck and put a camper on the back. That is what I was driving when Craig and I got married. Gas prices skyrocketed and we were both driving huge gas guzzlers so the two gas guzzlers became a van and a car. In the sixteen years we owned the van it traveled in 44 states and was licensed in 5 states. Then we graduated to a Class C that we took on a cross country trip and several trips from North Carolina to Texas. Tent camping made some brief revivals while our boys were in scouts. They are both Eagle Scouts. (Got flooded again and barely missed a tornado.) Then it was a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel that made Texas and Florida trips with us. We went back to another Class C but when our boys moved out we thought our camping days with them were over so we downsized to a truck camper. (Much bigger than the little camper I had on my pickup). We discovered that the boys did not give up camping with us, only now they brought their wives along. We made the big plunge and bought our first Class A. While it was certainly bigger and more comfortable than the truck camper the family also grew and when we all go we have six adults and 4 children. We still don't all fit in the Class A so who knows what is down the road but it has been an enjoyable adventure.

Then one day this past winter I was going through a box of old pictures and I discovered my camping roots. I found a camping picture with my mother, my maternal grandparents, my grandmother's brother had his wife and my great grandmother. Surely camping must be in the blood.

Marie L. Rickenbach  
SKP #72083





# **TRAVELER'S CORNER**

## ***Camping I Just In Our Blood***

**Marie Rickenbach SKP #72083 (continued)**

Thanks to Marie Rickenbach for the great pictures below! You guys have come a long way!



# TRAVELER'S CORNER

## Camping I Just In Our Blood

Marie Rickenbach SKP #72083 (continued)



Craig & Marie Rickenbach  
SKP #72083



# **TRAVELER'S CORNER**

## **Canada's Maritime Provinces 2016**

### **By Ron Johnson #104509**

The summer of 2016 trip again took me into Canada; this time to Canada's Maritime Provinces.  
**New Brunswick**

I crossed into Canada via the Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge connecting Ogdensburg, NY to Johnstown, Ontario. After spending one night each in Ontario and Quebec I headed east to the Province of New Brunswick to view the world's longest covered bridge at Hartland. While there I also visited the Covered Bridge Potato Chip Company in Waterville, NB.

#### **World's Longest Covered Bridge- Hartland, NB**



Next stop: Fundy National Park on the Bay of Fundy in Alma, NB: Home of the highest tides in the world. At low tide I walked the ocean floor to about 3/4 mile from shore.

#### **Hopewell Rocks-Flower Pot Rocks-Hopewell Cape, NB-at Mid Tide**



The Hopewell Rocks, located on the shore of the Bay of Fundy at Hopewell Cape is one of the Marine Wonders of the World, and is the site of some of the world's highest tides, of up to four stories.

Other areas of interest: Cape Enrage; Point Wolfe; Dickson Falls; the town of Alma;  
There are a number of restaurants in Alma, several which I tried. I especially liked the Harbour View Restaurant. Another "must try" is Sopranos Pizza.

# **TRAVELER'S CORNER**

**Canada's Maritime Provinces 2016  
By Ron Johnson #104509 (continued)**

## **Prince Edward Island Red Sandstone Cliffs PEI National Park, Cavendish**



Two modes of transportation to get to PEI: ferry or drive across the Confederation Bridge. There is no toll getting onto the island, but a hefty toll to leave. My cost was about \$55 US (4 axles) to leave PEI. Other areas of interest: The Green Gables house and its surroundings in Cavendish are the setting for the Anne of Green Gables Novels by Lucy Maud Montgomery.

## **Nova Scotia**

### **OLD SHIPYARD BEACH CG, Spencer's Island, Nova Scotia**

OLD SHIPYARD BEACH CG is a jewel in the middle of nowhere. The current owners' are American citizens with Canadian residency and ironically the man and I spent our childhoods a few miles apart in Florida.

It was here at Spencer's Island that the "ghost ship" Mary Celeste was built and launched in 1869.

#### **View of Campground at low tide from atop Spencer's Island Lighthouse**



# **TRAVELER'S CORNER**

Canada's Maritime Provinces 2016  
By Ron Johnson #104509 (continued)

## **Sunrise on the beach**



The lighthouse was built in 1904 at a cost of \$645.87 and first lit on July 15 of that year.

## **Spencer's Island Lighthouse**



# TRAVELER'S CORNER

Canada's Maritime Provinces 2016  
By Ron Johnson #104509 (continued)



I started my trip on the Cabot Trail at Baddock, traveling in a clockwise direction. I spent 5 days at Cape Breton Highlands National Park in Cheticamp on the west coast and 6 days at Cape Breton Highlands National Park in Ingonish on the east coast.

A word of caution for anyone planning to travel the Cabot Trail: There are several 16% grades northbound between Cheticamp and Ingonish, which probably explains why I saw only one other RV and one large truck. My Ford Super Duty made each ascent as though I was not towing. However, the descent, even in first gear, required a lot of braking.

I completed the Cabot Trail with my return to Baddock. Upon leaving Nova Scotia, believing steep grades were behind me, I encountered **Oi' Smokey**, another 16% grade.

**Other areas of interest:** Alexander G. Bell made his home in Baddock. The Bell Museum in Baddock is worth the visit; Peggy's Cove; Cape d' Or Scenic Area in Advocate Harbour; Meat Cove, the most northerly village in Nova Scotia; Swissair Flight 111 Memorial in Peggy's Cove; UNESCO World Heritage Site and Joggins Fossil Cliffs.

Ron Johnson  
SKP# 104509



# Old Time Classic Rigs

Have you ever wished you had started RVing a long long time ago? Did you ever wish you knew what you had missed out on? Well here's your chance to see the "luxury" rigs that were popular in the past. See if you can picture which rig you would liked to have owned!

Thanks to Keith Martin SKP#97531 for providing these pictures for our enjoyment.



1935 Pontiac with Turquoise Canned Ham



1959 Chevrolet El Camino with Shasta Travel Trailer



1959 Chevrolet Impala Hardtop with Shasta Travel Trailer



1936 Pierce Arrow with Travelodge



1947 Custom Buick Sedanet with Matching Trailer



1949 Studebaker Pickup with Purple Trailer to Match

# Old Time Classic Rigs (continued)



1956 Ford Ranch Wagon with Teardrop Trailer



1952 Buick Riviera Hardtop with Matching Trailer



Pretty Pink Pair 1959 Cadillac Sixty with Shasta Trailer



1962 Ford Cortina with Custom Travel Trailer



1951 Hudson Commodore with matching Trailer



1955 Ford Customline Wagon with Shasta Trailer



## Balloon Fiesta HOP

If this world event is on your bucket list, then come and join your SKP friends for the 46<sup>th</sup> annual **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta**.



Each morning, as dawn breaks over the majestic Sandia Mountains, the skies will be filled with the bright and beautiful colors of 600 palatial hot-air balloons from all over the world.

The **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta** is the largest and most photographed hot-air balloon festival in the world. It is the only location where “the box effect” comes into play. This is a special wind pattern that helps pilots navigate their balloons, allowing them to land back on the launch field or even right next to their RV.

The Dawn Patrol lifts off first to observe weather conditions. Upon approval, the balloons lift off in a mass ascension. The “Zebras,” dressed in black and white, coordinate the launching of these balloons.

Though the fiesta hosts balloons in the more familiar, traditional shape, many will have special shapes and sizes. The most popular of these are the cow, pig, the Ladybug, stagecoach and the sweetest mother, daddy and baby bumblebees. The bumblebees have hands with Velcro, so that when they touch in midair, it appears they are holding hands.

## Balloon Fiesta HOP

(continued)

This fiesta also hosts the **Gas Balloons - America's Challenge** race, with the winner being the one going the farthest. Some of the gas balloons have gone as far as the East Coast and into Canada.

At dusk, you can see the burners of the balloons ignite and watch as the evening sky fills with a bouquet of bright colors. The nights will be finished with an extraordinary display of fireworks.

Escapees will have boondock camping and a large, private tent for inclement weather, socials, games and catered meals.

This year, Escapees will offer **three options** for the Balloon Fiesta HOP.

- October 6 - 11, 2017
- October 11 - 15, 2017
- October 6 - 11, 2017

For more information on this HOP, visit:

[Balloon Fiesta HOP](#)

**To register for this HOP, contact:**

The HOP Department

888-757-2582 or 936-327-8873



## Escapees Brings You a New Way to Learn!

As one of the strongest RVing communities in the country, we understand the importance and value of peer-to-peer education. This is why we have created a new program for making it even easier- Escapees Webinars!

Through Escapees Webinars, we are bringing the experience and expertise of fellow RVers to you in a compact, interactive experience. With each webinar, you'll have the opportunity to learn from other RVers, including a live Q&A, covering a wide variety of topics.

**Stay Tuned for Announcements of new Webinars!**



# Caribbean Cruise HOP

October 22 – 29, 2017

Sailing out of Galveston, join fellow Escapees on this amazing 7-day round trip on the Caribbean Cruise HOP.

Enjoy the sparkling clear blue waters, relax on beautiful white sand beaches, sip on a favorite cool beverage and watch the sunset. You will have the luxury of seeing the beautiful Caribbean, from aboard the Royal Caribbean's *Liberty of the Seas*.

Once on-board, the ship will provide activities, entertainment and incredible food. On the days at sea, there will be HOP socials and activities.

The ship offers a wide array of shore excursions to fit your lifestyle in each port-of-call. Excursions are the best way to enjoy the magnificent sights in each city as well as the culture and warm embrace of the native people.

For more details about this cruise HOP, view: [https://www.escapees.com/skp\\_files/hop/event.php?id=37](https://www.escapees.com/skp_files/hop/event.php?id=37)

## Want to register now?

Call Escapees Travel Agency at toll-free: 1-855-757-8881, or email them at [ETA@escapees.com](mailto:ETA@escapees.com).

## Confirmation email:

Once registered for this HOP, important information will be sent via email regarding dining times, socials on-board, ship excursions, the boarding process, the port terminal, as well as the RV parks and hotels located near the pier.

View upcoming HOPs: <https://www.escapees.com/fun/hops>

# Circle Hawaii Cruise HOP

December 2 – 20, 2017

Join us on this amazing 18-day round trip cruise, with the Circle Hawaii Cruise HOP. Enjoy the luxury of seeing the beautiful Hawaiian Islands aboard Holland America's *Ms. Oosterdam*.



Once on-board, the ship will provide activities, entertainment and incredible food. There will be loads of fun, along with interactive HOP socials, during our days at sea.

The ship offers a wide array of excursions to fit your lifestyle in each port-of-call. Excursions are the best way to enjoy the magnificent sights in each city, as well as the culture and warm embrace of the native people.

For more details about this cruise HOP, view: [Circle Hawaii Cruise HOP](#)  
For the most current HOPs, view: <https://www.escapees.com/fun/hops>

## Want to register now?

Call Escapees Travel Agency at toll-free: 1-855-757-8881, or email them at [ETA@escapees.com](mailto:ETA@escapees.com).

## Confirmation email:

Once registered for this HOP, important information will be sent via email regarding dining times, socials on-board, ship excursions, the boarding process, the port terminal, as well as the RV parks and hotels located near the pier.

View upcoming HOPs: <https://www.escapees.com/fun/hops>

# ***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      goldfinch7@aol.com  
Terri Wirtz     terriwirtz@gmail.com

**Rates:** \$34.50 / 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/>

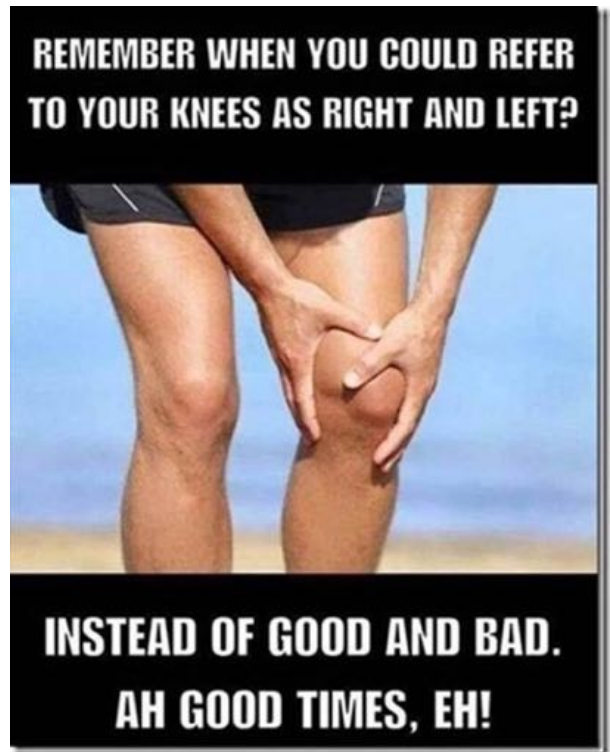
**President** Steve Masterson

**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.*

***Just for Fun and Giggles***  
***(understanding that these are NOT things***  
***we have in common with Xscapers!)***



**Growing old is hard work...  
The mind says "yes" but, the body says "what the hell are you thinking"**

You know you're gettin' OLD when you can't walk past a bathroom without thinking, "I may as well pee while I'm here."



Thanks to Bruce & Connie Long SKP #60805 for their contributions.



Do you suppose in the story that they were talking about us when they said "God Bless Us Everyone!"?

# ***Editor's Note***

As you all know, we will soon be enjoying our 2017 Spring Rally in Asheboro, NC, as well as the 2017 SKP ACRE in Sevierville, TN. Although we've not had much of a winter, if you're like me, you're excited about hitting the road again and enjoying the company of our RVing family and friends.

The next newsletter will be published in July so here's your challenge. During the Spring Rally and SKP ACRE - or wherever your travels take you in the next couple of months, I'd like to see articles and pictures of all the fun you're having. Let's make the July issue a big BANG!

Travel safely and we'll see you soon.

Dianne Wood  
VP and Newsletter Editor  
SKP #113382

