



**ESCAPEES - CHAPTER 29
CAROLINA ROVERS
APRIL 2018
NEWSLETTER**



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Is Spring Really Here???

After a winter of one Nor'easter after another for 5 straight weeks, it finally feels like spring is here. I know, I know. Y'all are saying, "Wait a minute. You live in Florida during the winter." Yes we do and when y'all get a Nor'easter we get cold temps with many nights in the mid 40's. BRRRR. Now we are getting the motorhome packed for our summer adventures starting in Dillard, GA with our Spring Rally. Yippee

Steve and Mariann Gerner and Bruce and Connie Long are the co-hosts for the spring rally and the location is rich with things to do and explore. Every Spring we elect 2 officers and this year President and Secretary are up for election. Please let our VP, Steve Gerner know if you would like to run for either office. Steve can be reached via email at [REDACTED].

Short and sweet.

Hugs
Steve Masterson SKP #95338

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..And Now a Word from our VP

It's been a long and unusual winter for us in Augusta. One day it might be 75 or 80 degrees, the next 40. We've done a lot of work around the house over the winter (mostly on the warm days) and now it's time to relax and enjoy life.

Mariann and I have brought our travel trailer out of hibernation and are currently at "Scenic Mountain" RV Resort in Milledgeville, GA. We've washed off the winter accumulation of dirt and made sure that we have everything onboard needed for the upcoming spring rally in Dillard.

We hope to see everyone in Dillard. We have at least 28 rigs coming and it looks like it will be another great time for all. One important thing we must do in Dillard is to elect a new President and Secretary. Steve M has done a marvelous job for us since rejuvenating the chapter in 2011 and now it's time for him to kick back and enjoy. Marie deserves a break as well. We need people to run for these positions and bring new ideas and leadership to our chapter.

See ya'll at the rally,



Steve Gerner #94654
Vice-President

Newsletter Editor's Note

It's almost Spring and I'm getting real itchy to get on the road. As most of you know, we traded our Holiday Rambler for a Tiffin Allegro Bus and, so, have spent the last four months trying to figure out how to pack it and how everything works. The packing is going to be interesting because even though it made sense where everything went while I was working on it, we already can't remember where we put things. We'll probably spend our first week on the road looking for stuff. Thank goodness we have some great friends and fellow RVers who have offered to share their knowledge with us and give us a hand during our first stop in Dillard, GA, at the Spring Rally. I often wonder where on earth we would be without the knowledge and expertise of Steve Masterson!!!

After Dillard, we'll be heading out on a much anticipated journey this year to Yellowstone. We'll hit three rallies on the way out and are really looking forward to seeing old friends. It doesn't seem like it's been a full year since we've been able to visit with our chapter and I can honestly say we have both missed that.

We'll see you guys soon in Dillard, and in the meantime, has anyone seen where I put the wine bottle opener?



Steve & Dianne Wood
SKP #113382



Gateway to Smoky Mountains!

Escape from the ordinary in Dillard! Enjoy great food, outdoor adventure, antiques & visit the famous Dillard House.

dillardgeorgia.com

*...For your viewing
pleasure before Dillard.
GA visit.*

Safety Tip for RVers

Last month a single woman and her dog started their first long distance 1,100 mile trip in her new Class B motorhome. She told her family where she was going and when to expect her at her final destination. She also posted a lengthy message in a social media site asking if anyone would like to join her on her first journey. She included pictures of the motorhome and dog. Several people replied but it is not evident if anyone joined her. Then several days into her trip her sister became concerned after several attempts to contact her. Her sister contacted the police and an investigation was opened. The sister also posted "HELP NEEDED" messages on several social media sites. As Co-Administrator of the "50 and Over RV'ers" group on Facebook I had this information moved to the top of the groups page and cross-posted it to numerous other RV groups. Within hours the woman was located in a remote section of a National Forest where she was airlifted to a hospital. Reports indicate that she had mechanical problems with the motorhome, was found a distance away from her motorhome and that her cell phone died. She is recovering from exposure and dehydration. The dog was also rescued. We do not yet know if the postings on social media helped in her rescue. We do know that it heightened everyone's awareness about how to better plan a trip.

So, what can we learn from this experience?

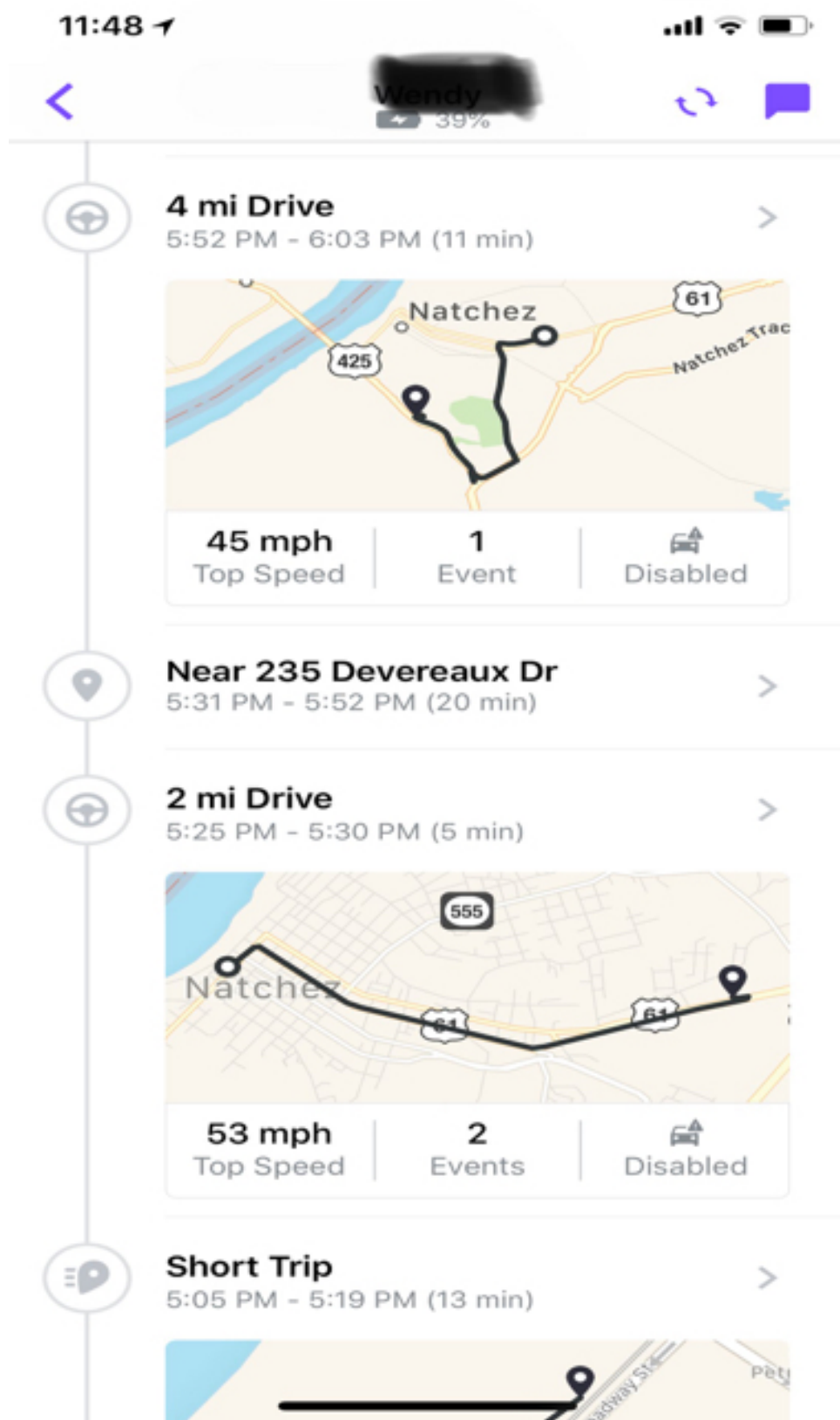
There are several things that I do to minimize the risks while traveling. I share my location with family via the "Find Friends" app on my iPhone. They can see where I am within 20' of my location. I also share my travel calendar on Google with family so that know my schedule. This has worked for me because we all have iPhones and Gmail accounts. This would not work if a family had Apple and Android phones or different email accounts. So I started to do some research and rediscovered an app that I used when I had an Android phone while the rest of my family had iPhones. The app is called "Find My Family, Friends & Phone" and the icon is listed as "Life360". In the Apple Store this app has a 4.8 rating from 95,300 users and has been downloaded to 206,916 devices. The free version allows you to invite family or friends to view your location in real time and they can view your travel history as well. I tested it with an RVer for several days and it proved to be extremely accurate. The fee version, Life 360 Plus adds crash detection and 24/7 driver care support in the US only for \$2.99 per month or \$24.99 per year. Think of the crash detection as the devices advertised on TV with the slogan, "I've fallen and can't get up". Because this app uses GPS, it is more accurate than most 911 systems. On the following page is a screen shot from the history file. Look at the top and it tells you how much charge is left of their phone. I hope to add this information to the Escapees RV Club Boot Camp for RVers program. My life goal has always been to learn something new everyday and whenever possible to share. Some days are better than others.

Steve Masterson
SKP 95338
Lifetime Member

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Safety Tip for RVers

(Continued)



TRAVELER'S CORNER

**Winter Trip 2017-2018
By Ron Johnson #104509**

Winter 2017-2018 was mostly spent in central Florida, travelling to several interesting places.

Paynes Prairie State Preserve



Park literature states over 270 species of birds can be viewed in the park. American alligators, herds of Florida Cracker horses and Florida Cracker cattle, can also be viewed in the park along with a small herd of Plains bison.

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TRAVELER'S CORNER

**Winter Trip 2017-2018
By Ron Johnson #104509
(Continued)**

Kissimmee Prairie State Preserve



The last five-miles into the preserve are on an unpaved shell road, and provide some great views of grasslands. The park provides refuge to six federally threatened and endangered bird species, and another six species of special concern.



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TRAVELER'S CORNER

Winter Trip 2017-2018
By Ron Johnson #104509
(Continued)

Collier-Seminole State Park

The Bay City Walking Dredge #489 is the last of this type machine used in the 1920s to build the Tamiami Trail (US-41) through the Everglades from Tampa to Miami.

Bay City Walking Dredge



Bay City Walking Dredge-Leg Pulley System

The dredge could “walk” through the use of a system of pulleys on each side, shown in this photo. The operator would move first one side, then the other, to create the “walking” effect.



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TRAVELER'S CORNER

**Winter Trip 2017-2018
By Ron Johnson #104509
(Continued)**

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge is the unused portion of Kennedy Space center and was established in 1963.

Merritt Island NWR-Black Point Wildlife Drive



Merritt Island NWR-Black Point Wildlife Drive



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TRAVELER'S CORNER

Winter Trip 2017-2018
By Ron Johnson #104509
(Continued)

Manatees-Merritt Island NWR



White Ibises Merritt Island NWR



New Member Benefit

The logo consists of the "ESCAPEES RV Club" text in black and red at the top. Below it, the word "ROADSIDE" is written in a large, bold, red, sans-serif font. Underneath "ROADSIDE", the word "ASSISTANCE" is written in a large, blue, sans-serif font with wide letter spacing.

We are proud to offer a new member benefit- Escapees Roadside Assistance (ERA). This program, powered by SafeRide Motor Club, offers the highest level of roadside assistance for RVers at an affordable price of \$99/year.

Featuring 24/7 technical assistance, available 365 days per year, ERA can assist RVers with a multitude of needs for both their rig and their tow or towed vehicle. With benefits including towing and winching service, battery jump-starts, mobile mechanics, roadside tire assistance and more, Escapees members can trust that help is available when needed, as often as needed. Unlike competing programs, Escapees Roadside Assistance offers unlimited service calls.

“Not all roadside assistance services are created equal,” says Shawn Loring, CEO of Escapees RV Club. “Passenger vehicle coverage may not apply to an RV, and not all programs cover RVs well enough, if at all. We choose to work with SafeRide because they offer the most complete variety of benefits for RVers at a price point accessible to most RVers.”

To learn more about the program, visit [Escapees Roadside Assistance](#).

Coupons & Discounts

Did you know that your Escapees membership gets you access to a wide array of discounts? Alongside parking discounts, we have partnered with several industry leaders to offer ways to save you money on some of the best products and services out there.

One of our newest partners, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, has extended a discount on all tires purchased through Goodyear.com. This is a fantastic and useful way to earn back your annual dues in savings!



To learn more about how to take advantage of the Goodyear.com discount and other savings, visit www.escapees.com. Once you have logged in, visit the “Coupons & Discounts” tab under “My Benefits.”



Post Sedalia Escapade HOPs

June 1, 2018

The National WWI Museum & Treasures of the Steamboat Arabia HOP

June 2, 2018

Home of the Clydesdales and Antebellum Dixie Region HOP

After a busy week at Escapade, enjoy a relaxing HOP or two. HOPs are fun and exciting, especially when shared with fellow SKP friends.

Let us do the driving, while you can sit back, relax and enjoy! Board a luxury coach with a local tour guide and enjoy the scenic view of the beautiful countryside and enjoy the Midwest



June 1

The National WWI Museum & Treasures of the Steamboat Arabia HOP:

- America's National WW I Museum is nothing short of outstanding! It is a state of the art museum dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of artifacts associated with the First World War. Special effects include sounds, lights and movements bring the exhibits and displays to life.
- Also included are posters, photographs, uniforms, films, audio broadcasts artillery, weaponry, cannons, caissons and much more.
- On the way to the museum, learn about WW I history, and how Missouri played an essential role in the war. Also, hear passages from doughboys' diaries.
- Visit another state of the art museum - The Arabia Steamboat sank on the dangerous Missouri River in 1856 with a 200-ton cargo, frontier supplies, personal belongings and some contraband.
- Learn about the excavation effort, seeing a working preservation lab, walk on the full-size reproduction of the main deck and seeing the original 6-ton stern and paddlewheel. This outstanding attraction is often called the "Best Museum in Kansas City"!

For more information on this HOP, click: https://www.escapees.com/skp_files/hop/event.php?id=50

Website Notice

Great news! The new escapees.com is ready for your viewing pleasure!

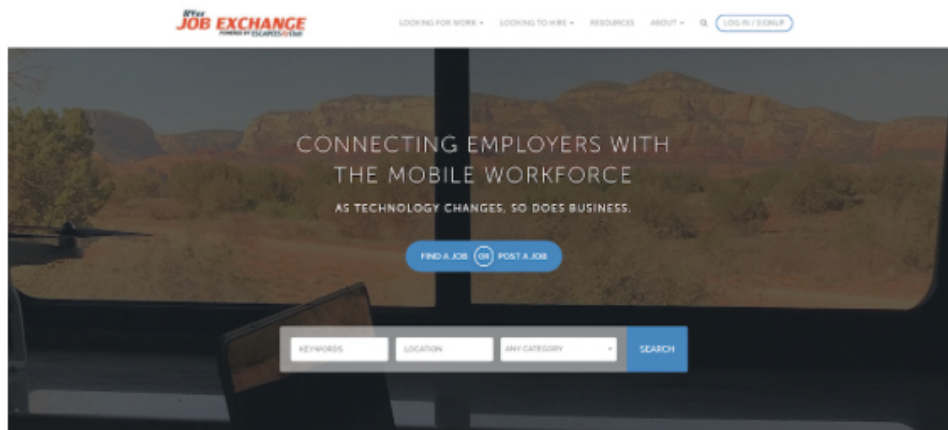
We are excited to share with you all the great new features of escapees.com and xscapers.com:

- Cleaner look with less clutter
- Improved organization of content
- Additional avenues to connect with Escapees staff
- Interactive club events calendar
- Separation of member and non-member content



With the changes to our two primary websites comes more good news! Our Escapees Job Board is now RVer Job Exchange. The Exchange has a dedicated website to better connect employers with interested applicants. The best part of this is that the Exchange now contains additional resources to assist RVers with questions about income tax, with more content on the way. Take a look at rverjobexchange.com. It is free to the public for a limited time, but will always be available to Escapees RV Club members.


*Please note that your escapees.com login will not work on rverjobexchange.com, it will be a separate account.



Website Notice (Continued)

We saved the best news for last- Escapees members now have a website focused solely on the needs of members! Found at member.escapees.com, this site was designed to bring all member-specific information to a single place without the clutter of general club promotion and information. You can manage your mail service account, renew your club membership, obtain the discount codes and links for member savings, find the contact information for our chapters and BOFs, view past issues of Escapees magazine, and more, all from a single, streamlined website.



We hope you are as excited about these changes as we are! As with most new technology, we have set aside time in the coming weeks to search the websites for bugs and other glitches. Please be patient with us as we complete the process. If you find errors, please submit them .

Thank you for your patience while the websites were down. We hope you agree that the wait was worthwhile!

P.S. After our announcement about these new websites last week, we had several inquiries about an Escapees RV Club mobile app. As a reward for those who read all the way to the end of Club News, consider yourselves the first to know that an app is on the way!

Post Sedalia Escapade HOPs (Continued)

June 2

Home of the Budweiser Clydesdales and the Antebellum Dixie Region HOP

- This enjoyable trip begins with a visit and tour of the world-famous breeding operation and home to over 100 Clydesdale horses, owned by the Budweiser Company!
- You'll meet the horses and colts, see the luxurious trailers in which they travel to parades and public appearances.
- Learn how these "gentle giants" are cared for, trained and selected to represent Budweiser.
- This fascinating behind the scenes tour is mostly inside, all paved, level and ADA accessible.
- Antebellum Dixie Region - picnic lunch included at the local, historical KATY train depot, located next to the new River Rails and Trails Museum which among other exhibits features the rare Mitchell Automobiles.
- Learn the story of the Boonville area's history starting with Lewis and Clark and features a half-scale Keel Boat.
- A stop and tour of the 1848 Sheriff's Hanging Barn and Jail will follow. An important photo op will be at the monument honoring the end of the "Boonslick" or "Boone's Lick Trail" and the beginning of the Santa Fe Trail.

For more information about this HOP, click:

https://www.escapees.com/skp_files/hop/event.php?id=49

To register for these 2 HOPs, contact

The HOP Department

888-757-2582 or 936-327-8873

Upcoming Events



CELEBRATE WITH US

ESCAPEES RV CLUB'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY AND 58TH ESCAPADE

Sedalia, Missouri

MAY 27—JUNE 1, 2018

Registration is happening now at

WWW.ESCAPEES.COM/ESCAPADE

or by calling 888-757-2582



Upcoming Events (Continued)

All Aboard! Plan now to join us in the nation's heartland, Sedalia, MO, at the 58th Escapade, as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Escapees RV Club! Enrich your RV lifestyle; share in the fun and gain new friendships! The friendly folks of Sedalia are ready and waiting to welcome the Escapees RV Club into their community. They invite and encourage visitors to get to know Sedalia, experience their warm hospitality and discover its history. Get onboard and we'll see you there!

For more information, please visit: [58th Escapade](#)

Post Sedalia Escapade HOP

Escapees RV Club is proud to announce, **Jerry Mackey**, one of the five original excavators of the Steamboat Arabia will join us at the museum and share his experiences. There are a few seats left, so please don't miss out on this fascinating HOP!

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For more information on this HOP, click: [Post Escapade HOP](#)

To register for this HOP, contact

The HOP Department

888-757-2582 or 936-327-8873

Or, email: 

Upcoming Events (Continued)

7th Annual Western Area Rally for Escapees (WARE)

When: April 22 - 26, 2018

Where: Sam's Town KOA & Sam's Town Hotel & Gambling Hall

There is a growing line up of seminars, vendors, activities and more. Here are just a few samples of what is in store for you:

- **Seminars:**

- **RVers' Boot Camp** will be presenting Preventing ID theft, Propane Safety, Tips for RVers, Tire Safety HOP on Board. These seminars will be held more than once so you won't miss out.

Geeks on Tour will present Photo and Memories (Google Photos-What to do with all your pictures), What does that button do? (Smartphones-What does that button do?), Technology to tell your stories (Create your online Travelog), and "OK Honey, tell me where to go" (Basically the same description as "Technology for Travelers").

Tupperware will be doing a demonstration on new products and how they will work in your RV.

Check the Seminar page under Events for further information.

Make sure you sign up early so we know how many to expect.

- **Vendors:**

Sunflower Fashions, Port-a-Bote, RVers' Boot Camp, Geeks on Tour, Geocaching, and CRSpotless RV washing system to name a few.

- **Activities:**


Slot Machine Tournament sponsored by Sam's Town Hotel, Golf Tournament at Stallion Mountain Golf Club, Bowling Tournament, and Bingo by Casino Bingo. Check the website under Activities for applicable fees.

For more information about this Rally, please visit: <http://warerally.com>

Escapees Discount Parks Program

Escapees RV Club has an extensive discount parking network that offers 15%-50% off at over 800 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  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 use our [Online Directory](#) while on the road to locate discount parks.



Chapter 29 Spring Rally Agenda
Patriots' Theme
April 19th - 22nd
River Vista Mountain Village

All events will be held in the recreation hall unless otherwise noted

Thursday 4/19

- 4:00 - 5:00 Registration and Sign up for the Optional Dinner and Swap Meet
Social Hour (bring your own drinks) **Please consider a donation to go towards the making of blankets for our veterans.**
- 5:00 - 6:00 Welcome Dinner (Hot Dogs, Chips, Baked Beans, Cowboy Coffee, Cookies
(bring your own plates, silverware and cups)

Friday 4/20

- 8:00 - 10:00 Hot Breakfast compliments of Sky-Med. Ray & Carol Combs will make a presentation explaining Sky-Med services.
- 10:00 - 12:00 Swap Meet/Flea Market @ each members rig (**sign up @ registration on Thursday w/site#**)
- 1:00 - 2:00 Officers Meeting (at the Recreation Hall)

- Afternoon free to pursue local activities on your own

- 5:00 - 6:00 Social hour (snacks by even #SKPs) (bring your own drinks)
- 6:00 - 7:30 Optional Catered Dinner (Meatloaf, Fried Chicken, Mac-n-Cheese, Green Beans, Squash Casserole, Rolls, Red Velvet Cake, Coffee) \$14.00 per person. See the flyer. (**sign up @ registration on Thursday**)
- 8:00 Campfire (weather permitting)

Saturday 4/21

- 8:00 - 9:00 Continental Breakfast (Biscuits & Gravy, Hard Boiled Eggs, Sweet Rolls and Coffee (bring your own plates, silverware and cups)
- 10:00 - 11:00 General membership meeting (at the Recreation Hall)
- 1:00 - 3:00 "Tech Talk" open forum facilitated by Steve Gerner
"Quilt making for Veterans" led by Connie Long & Mariann Gerner (please consider a donation for this worthy cause)
- 5:00 - 6:00 Social hour (snacks by odd #SKPs)(bring your own drinks)
- 6:00 - 7:30 Pot luck dinner (Patriotic Theme) (bring your own plates, silverware and cups)

Sunday 4/22

- 8:00 - 9:00 Continental Breakfast (coffee, rolls) (bring your own plates, silverware and cups)

- Hitch up and go. Have safe travels.

Upcoming Events

2018 Spring Rally - Chapter 29

When: April 19 - 22, 2018
Where: River Vista RV Resort
20 River Vista Dr
Dillard, GA 30537



Rates: The rates are \$33.75 back in or \$37.50 for a pull thru plus tax (5%). The rates are good before and after the rally dates as well.

(Note: There is a problem with River Vista's reservation system. Apparently they can not adjust the rates until after the reservation is made and this system determines the deposit. I have been assured that the actual costs will be based on our rates despite and less the amount used for the deposit.)

Rally Hosts: Steve and Mariann Gerne
Bruce and Connie Long

For reservations, please call 706-746-2722. Be sure to let them know that you are with Escapees Chapter 29. Once reservations are made, please contact your Rally Hosts above to confirm your attendance. A separate email will be forwarded with further details as we get closer to the date.

Detailed agenda information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date.

2018 Fall Rally - Chapter 29

When: 10/4-7, 2018
Where: Palmetto Cove RV Park
521 Table Rock Rd
Cleveland, SC 29635



Rally Hosts: TBD

All detailed information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date.

...Just For Fun and Giggles

We have a RV traveling pup who just loves to go RV'ing in our TT with us. Basically he loves to go anywhere my wife is going. He has a bed in the backseat of my F250 that stays there. RV Puppy is a Shih Tzu with beautiful long hair and in the summer he gets the lamb cut. Here is my problem - RV Puppy has his own groomer which cost \$90 and my wife has him groomed before each trip and of course he gets dirty when we camp so he has to have a "Chia bath" for \$60. RV Puppy costs me \$150 every time we go camping and I want to go camping every weekend. RV Puppy loves to check the emails at every pole and water the bushes, meet the neighbors and basically be a dog at every RV Park we stop at. I would like to go on longer trips like for 2 weeks or maybe a month. If you have a high maintenance RV Puppy - do you get him/her groomed while traveling/camping or wait till you get home for their salon experience? I want to get a doggy bathtub and wash him at one of our outside showers but. Such a dilemma. Getting rid of the first wife was cheaper than having a RV Puppy.

