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ESCAPEES - CHAPTER 29 CAROLINA ROVERS JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER







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Index

President's Message	1-2
And Now a Word from our VP	3
Newsletter Editor's Note	4-6
Traveler's Corner	7-16
Escapees RV Club News	17-23
Upcoming Events	24



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year everyone. 2017 was another awesome year of travel, meeting new friends and spending time with some old ones too. For us, the RV lifestyle provides the right mix of spending the winter in sunny Florida and traveling in the motorhome during the summer. I hope you had another awesome Christmas and Hanukkah. I was able to visit my son in Mooresville, NC just before Christmas and enjoyed a long weekend with the older Grandchildren. Christmas day we had all the Florida kids over to the house to enjoy dinner and watch the Grandkids go crazy. Grandkids ages 8, 5 and 3 got the iPod Touch with Facetime. (Yes, yes, yes, they are spoiled. ⊚) Now they can call us anytime they want without bugging their mother. Before Christmas, the 3 year old would find her mother's iPad, find my picture and call me. She wouldn't say much of anything, she would just laugh. Now I hear from her almost every day and boy can she talk. Got to LOVE it. Enough about the grandkids.

2018 will be another fun filled year. Chapter 29 continues to grow and we have the Spring Rally in April in Dillard, GA at River Vista RV Resort. This will be the chapter's second visit and it is a great resort with a heated and air conditioned rec hall. We will also elect a new President and Secretary. As I said last year, I do not plan to run again and will not accept a nomination. It is time for some new blood. If you are interested in running for either office, please contact our Vice President Steve Gerner at Steve Gerner at Steve Secretary.

(Continued on next page)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(continued)

ACRE – For the new people, the Escapees have one national rally per year called an Escapade and two regional rallies, one on the west coast and the other on the east coast. The west coast rally is called WARE and the east coast one is called ACRE. WARE and ACRE are held in April each year. Several members of Chapter 29 are also officers with ACRE and I am the President. The ACRE steering committee agreed to not hold a rally in 2018 and take the time to regroup and find a new location. The 2019 ACRE will be held in Pine Mountain, GA in late April. More information will be coming out soon.

As we all age, some of our members hit some bumps in the road. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Steve Masterson President



Just when you think things can't get any better, Steve and I gave each other an awesome Christmas present this year. We traded our Holiday Rambler in for a 2008 Tiffin Allegro Bus. Stay tuned for its "unveiling" at the Spring Rally!

Dianne Wood SKP# 113382



..And Now a Word from our VP

The Christmas trees are down, New Years celebrations are over and now we sit in front of the fireplace dreaming about the coming warmth of spring and the upcoming camping season. Full-timers may be hiding in Florida, or other warm places, but we part-time Georgians are subject to the cold right now.

We'd like to invite everyone to join us for the Spring Rally at River Vista Mountain Village from April 19th through the 22nd. Call the campground at 706-746-2722 to make a reservation. Be sure to let them know that you are with Escapees Chapter 29, the Carolina Rovers, then please let your hosts, Connie & Bruce Long and Mariann & Steve Gerner know of your intentions.

Dillard, GA, has something for almost everyone. Horseback riding? The Dillard House Stables are for you. Fishing? Andy's Trout Farm. Hiking? Wayah Bald near Franklin, NC is about 30 miles away on the Appalachian and BartramTrails. Dining out? Dillard has several small restaurants. There are other attractions including Anna Ruby Falls (near Helen, GA) and Helen, GA for the shoppers. A Wal-Mart in Clayton, GA is a great place to buy items that you've forgotten or on which you need to stock up.

Temperatures in Dillard for this time of year run around 45 degrees at night and 75 degrees during the day. You'll want to bring warmer clothing than what was required for the fall rally in Charleston!

We hope to see everyone in Dillard this April.

Steve Gerner #94654 Vice-President



Newsletter Editor's Note

So if you're not cooking for the family on Thanksgiving - then what do you do? Well...In our case we packed up and headed South. We stayed at a little campground in Conway, South Carolina, just south of Myrtle Beach called Bucksport Marina right off the Intercoastal Waterway. Now if you're expecting a lot of entertainment and things to do, you're in the wrong campground. It's a very small place but the sites are very roomy with FHU. Just a short walk will find you on the dock overlooking the intercoastal waterway and the peace and quiet is wonderful. The staff, who was very friendly, sponsored a Thanksgiving day buffet complete with turkey, ham and dressing and campers provided side dishes and dessert. This was the first year they had done this and even though it was a small crowd the food was delicious and the dinner was a success. The interesting thing about this campground is that not only do they have RV sites, but they rent boat slips for travelers on the Intercoastal Waterway. While there, there was a boat (or should I say a small ship!) docked...the folks were traveling from Canada to Florida. ...and we found these folks just as friendly as RVers.

We visited Steve's brother Rodger and his wife who live in Garden City - and for the life of me I couldn't tell you where Myrtle Beach ends and Garden City begins. The weather was beautiful and we had a fun time exploring. We checked out Huntington Beach Campground and 2 of the really large campgrounds at Myrtle Beach - Lakewood and Ocean Lakes. While both of these campgrounds provided any amenity you could ask for, I think I would prefer a smaller campground - unless, of course, you're lucky enough to snag an ocean front spot - in which case - Count Me In!



Steve & Dianne Wood SKP #113382



Editor's Note

(continued)

We visited Georgetown, SC, several days and found it to be a quiet, peaceful, little town. It's rich in architectural history, museums, a beautiful Harborwalk, shops and restaurants on Front Street and on and on..... While there on our second day, the shrimp boat had just unloaded and of course we HAD to buy some and they were some of the best, freshest steamed shrimp we'd had in a long time.

We enjoyed the entire week and we hope to return to Georgetown in the future to further explore the area. In the meantime, We hope you will enjoy our pictures.



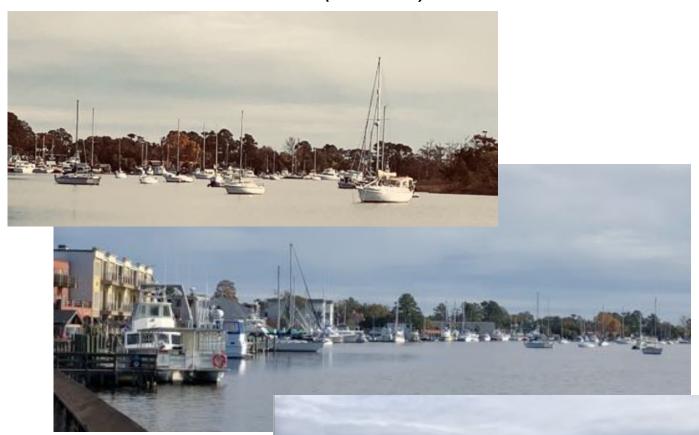


Thanksgiving Luncheon at the campground.



Editor's Note

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Georgetown Harborwalk



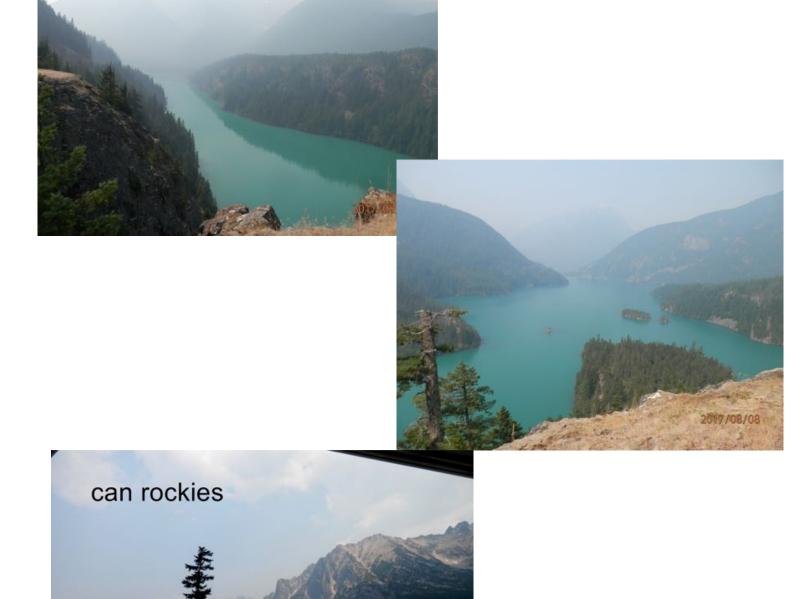
Pawley's Island



Live Oaks on one of the streets in Georgetown

Traveler's Corner By Darryl & Joyce Wildesin #129

Here are a few photos from Joyce as they traveled he smoky Canadian Rockies, new lake Louise and Baniff. I hope you enjoy the pictures as much as they enjoyed their trip. Dianne Wood, Newsletter Editor



(Continued on next page) 7 of

2017/08/08

Traveler's Corner By Ron Johnson #104509

Bridges and Their Claim to Fame 2018

I thought I would share some of the unique bridges and their claim to fame that I have visited the past several years. I first became interested in little known bridges while in Ohio and discovering the longest and shortest covered bridges in the U.S. were each located within a few miles of where I was staying.

West Liberty Covered Bridge: At 18 feet it has been called the shortest covered bridge in the United States. Location: West Liberty Street across Cowles Creek in Geneva, Ohio. I had a difficult time locating this particular bridge because when viewed from a distance of about one-half mile I thought it was a backyard gazebo!





Smolen–Gulf Covered Bridge: At 613 feet, it is the <u>longest covered bridge</u> in the United States and the fourth longest covered bridge in the world. **Location**: Ashtabula River at the Plymouth and Ashtabula Township line in northern Ashtabula County, Ohio.

Traveler's Corner By Ron Johnson #104509 (continued)

Lake Pontchartrain Causeway: Two parallel bridges crossing Lake Pontchartrain in Louisiana. The longer of the two bridges is 23.83 miles long. The bridge is located between

Metairie, Louisiana, a suburb of New Orleans and Mandeville, Louisiana.

According to Wikipedia, since 1969, it was listed by Guinness World Records as the longest bridge over water in the world; in 2011 in response to the opening of the



allegedly longer Jiaozhou Bay Bridge in China, Guinness World Records created two categories for bridges over water: continuous and aggregate lengths over water. Lake Pontchartrain Causeway then became the <u>longest bridge over water (continuous)</u> while Jiaozhou Bay Bridge the longest bridge over water (aggregate).

Watson Mill Bridge: Located in Comer, Georgia, Watson Mill Bridge is the longest covered bridge in the state of Georgia. Built in1885 by Washington (W.W.) King, son of freed slave and famous covered-bridge builder Horace King it is 228.6 feet long and is open to traffic. A word of caution for anyone travelling to Watson Mill State Park; the bridge has a vertical clearance of nine feet and a weight limit of three tons.



Traveler's Corner By Ron Johnson #104509 (continued)



Confederation Bridge: The eight mile long Confederation Bridge that links New Brunswick, Canada to Prince Edward Island, Canada is the longest bridge in the world over ice-covered water. There is no toll east bound from New Brunswick to PEI. But be prepared on the return trip. My cost, for 4 axles, leaving PEI was about \$55USD.

Kiskatinaw Curved Bridge: The task of the United States Army Corps of Engineers was to build a pioneer road for military traffic from Dawson Creek to Big Delta, Alaska. This meant fording rivers and creeks in the most expedient, if not permanent, way possible. The responsibility for creating a more durable, all season highway fell to civilian contractors who followed closely behind the troops and were coordinated by the United States Public Roads Administration.

Though there were many timber bridges built by these civilian workers, the Kiskatinaw Bridge is the only one still in use. It is also

one of the most unusual, curving nine degrees along its 534 foot length. Source: Wikipedia

The bridge is located on the Old Alaska Highway, a short distance from the current Alaska Highway and about 21 miles north of Dawson Creek, BC.

Dawson Creek, BC Alaska Hwy MP 21Kiskatinaw curved Bridge on Old AK Hwy

Traveler's Corner By Ron Johnson #104509 (continued)



Hartland Bridge: At 1282 feet the <u>longest covered</u> <u>bridge in the world</u> is located in Hartland, New Brunswick, Canada.

Yukon River Bridge: Built in 1974-75 as part of the Alaska Pipeline construction project, the bridge carries both the Dalton Highway and the Alaska Pipeline in connecting Fairbanks with Deadhorse near the Arctic Ocean and the Prudhoe Bay Oil Field. It is the only bridge crossing the Yukon in Alaska. Although difficult to see in the picture, the Alaska Pipeline runs along the side of the bridge.





Arthur J. Ravenel Bridge: Located in Mt Pleasant, SC., the bridge has a main span of 1,546 feet, the third longest among cablestayed bridges in the Western Hemisphere.



Traveler's Corner By Linda Stevens #114064

Badlands, Yellowstone, Grand Tetons & Beyond 7/30/17 4700 miles - 12 states - 56 Days

<u>Illinois</u> - My first stop to meet my 3d great-granddaughter Vanessa born 7/12/17. Visited with my daughter, grandson and his 2 children.

Next stop Minnesota - saw my BFF- Went to the Spam Museum,(Ha, a bucket List) we laughed

<u>PipeStone</u>, <u>MN</u> & learned the art of selfies! Sadly Jane was not able to continue on with me.

South Dakota - Badlands (where the rocks were 67-75 million years old!), Cedar Pass National park CG, Hard to wrap my head around 75 million years!

On to Sioux Falls & famous Wall Drug! Legal speed limit 80 mph! No I did not !!!!!

Pat joined me in <u>Rapid City, SD</u> and then to Hermosa, where we set up base camp to visit Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park & the Wooly Mammoth Site. We took a beautiful scenic drive on Spearfish and BearTooth highways before leaving that area.

On August 19th, we took the <u>Iron Mountain Road to Mt. Rushmore</u>, where the sign says "17 miles, 315 curves, 14 switchbacks, 3 pigtails, 3 tunnels, 2 splits and 4 Presidents."...17 miles to over 2 hours to drive!

After Mt. Rushmore, it was on to <u>Montana</u> - we stayed in Garryowen & Boseman, where we soaked in the hot springs.

Then it was down to <u>West Yellowstone MT</u> for a week at Yellowstone National Park, where we watched the solar eclipse from the shores of Yellowstone Lake. The rangers did a wonderful job managing all the tourists, providing lectures about the eclipse and handing out free eclipse glasses!

(Continued on next page) 12 of 24

By Linda Stevens #114064 (continued)

On August 25th, we moved to Colter Bay Village, <u>Grand Tetons Natl Park WY,</u> <u>Jackson Hole WY</u>, a float trip on the Snake River & hiking along the creeks and waterfalls. Hidden Falls was quit a hike up.

Our next stop was <u>Lincoln NE</u> where Pat caught a flight back home to tend to her 3 cats. I went on across the states to Escapees Raccoon Valley CG, visiting the <u>Tennessee</u> Arboretum & the Museum of Appalachia.

FYI....Yellowstone National Park includes 2,219,791 acres, 10,000 thermal features, including 2/3 of the world's geysers, bubbling mud pots, boiling hot springs and fumaroles (steam vents). Old Faithful erupts every 74 minutes on the average. Steamboat Geyser is the highest geyser in Yellowstone, shooting 400 ft. high, but at irregular times, so there's no predicting it. There are 290 waterfalls in Yellowstone. In the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, there are upper and lower falls. The lower falls feature the highest drop of 308 ft.

There were so many other stunning sites in the Yellowstone/Grand Tetons area it's hard not to talk about all of them: Bridal Veil Falls, Hidden Falls, Tower Falls, Gibbon Falls, thermal basins, steaming sulphur landscapes, the bison, coyotes, grizzlies, prairie dogs, burros, elk, mountain goats, and pronghorns. While we were aware of the smoke in the parks from the western state wildfires, they did not obscure our view too often. The locals said our timing was just right! Later that week as we were leaving the smoke covered the horizon.

The list overflows my bucket....check that one off.



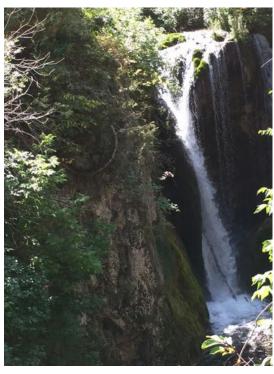


By Linda Stevens #114064 (continued)





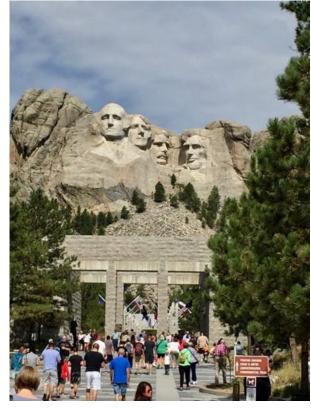






By Linda Stevens #114064 (continued)













By Linda Stevens #114064 (continued)











Linda Stevens SKP #11410



RVers Boot Camp in Dallas, TX

March 9 - 11, 2018

We are excited to announce the Escapees RV Club, RVers Boot Camp, is being offered in the Dallas - Ft. Worth area in 2018.

This training program provides solid fundamentals for road safety, technical proficiency, and confidence for all RVers.

The program includes training in

- RV maintenance and operation
- Towing safety
- Tire and weight safety
- Basic RV systems
- Fire and life safety
- RV driving
- Personal safety for RVers

Your Boot Camp tuition includes:

- More than 20 hours of formal training on essential RV topics
- A CD (one per couple) of "The RVer's Ultimate Survival Guide"
- Course handouts
- Special elective courses for new RVers
- Focus groups on motorhome towing and towable RVs
- Breakfasts on day two and three
- Dinner on day two
- Social gatherings, including an innovative full-timers discussion panel and Q&A session
- Numerous opportunities to talk one-on-one with the instructors

Date:

March 9 - 11, 2018

Location:

Loyd Park - Joe Pool Lake Campground 3401 Ragland Road Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

For more information on this Boot Camp, click:

https://www.escapees.com/pages/bootcamp/pdfs/directions and tips grand prairie.pdf

Or, email us at: bootcamp@escapees.com

Tuition for this Boot Camp:

Escapees Members One person - \$250

One couple - \$400

Non-Member:

One person - \$300 One couple - \$450

To register for this Boot Camp, or other

Booth Camps, please call:

Escapees RV Club 888-757-2582

For more information on the Escapees Boot

Camp, click:

17 of 24 17 of 24



Be a part of the fun at the 58th Escapade!

May 27 - June 1, 2018

Set your sights on Sedalia, Missouri and be a part of Escapees 40th anniversary celebration at the *58th Escapade!*

Escapade is known for providing top-notch educational opportunities, and your days will be busy absorbing as much up-to-date information as your mind can handle in seminars and workshops. You'll also want to spend time with our knowledgeable exhibitors, browsing the Escapade Market to your heart's content. (Visit the Escapade website https://www.escapees.com/knowledge/escapade for details on seminars, exhibitors and vendors!)

Evenings at Escapade are all about fun! After you've enjoyed some social time at happy hours and potlucks, get ready to be entertained!

Sunday evening, plan to laugh the night away as *Bil Lepp*, an American storyteller, performs on the Escapade stage. It's been said that Bil "takes something small and insignificant and pushes it up into something really big and mightily interesting!" Bil is the winner of many prestigious writing and storytelling awards, including the Parents Choice Approved Award. His hilarious tales are side-splittingly funny and will delight young and old alike. (You won't want to miss Bil's presentation "The Art of Storytelling" Monday morning).

Monday evening, prepare to be "wowed" by *Reza, Edge of Illusion*. Reza is an international entertainer, recognized as one of the most sought-after illusionists touring today. Reza adds a personal aspect to his spectacular show as he engages the audience and keeps everyone guessing what he'll do next. He's been featured on Penn & Teller's Fool Us, and Duck Dynasty, he's performed on the international stage, and he regularly performs in Branson in between tours.

(Thank you to *Fantasy RV Tours*, major entertainment sponsor for the 58th Escapade.)

Escapade's Got Talent returns in a big way, as attendees take to the stage for a fun-filled evening of song, dance and laughter. If you've got talent, Escapade wants you! Plan to be thoroughly entertained and support your fellow SKPs on Wednesday evening.

Along with all the education, the entertainment, camaraderie and fun, you'll be given the opportunity to win one of five *Kick-Off* cash prizes, courtesy of *Blue Ox*, an exciting *HOP*, courtesy of *Escapees RV Club*, and a fabulous guided RV adventure, brought to you by our Grand Prize sponsor, *Adventure Caravans*.

(Continued on next page) 18 of 24

Be a part of the fun at the 58th Escapade!

May 27 - June 1, 2018 (continued)









The fun doesn't stop there! Thursday evening we'll be taking it to the street for *Escapees 40th Anniversary Street Festival*, a good old-fashioned street festival, complete with local food vendors, local winery and craft brew vendor, and a local band. Join your friends, relax a little, take a break and have fun celebrating the Club's 40 years! Bring the kids to play and enjoy the bounce house and outdoor games. Then, stick around for an incredible fireworks finale to end the evening in style!

Start making plans to join us in Sedalia, Missouri, May 27 -June 1, 2018.

Visit the website: https://www.escapees.com/knowledge/escapade to register and learn more about the *58th Escapade*. To register in person, call 888-757-2582. Interested in being an exhibitor in the Escapade Market? Call 888-757-2582 for more information. For information on local attractions, please visit https://www.visitsedaliamo.com/.







Colorado Outdoor Adventure HOP

September 2 - 8, 2018

This Outdoor Adventure HOP will be nestled in the Rocky Mountains on the Gold Medal trout waters of the Rio Grande River. With a perfect climate for outdoor events, Escapees has an exciting adventure awaiting your arrival here.

The campground offers incredible views right outside your RV door and is surrounded by national forests with hundreds of miles of trails to explore.



Days will be filled with off-road runs while exploring the beautiful South Fork area and sight-seeing in the most picturesque areas of Colorado with your HOP hosts.

In the evenings, relax by the campfire, with S'mores and/or your favorite beverage, and reflect on the day of adventures with your fellow HOP attendees.

Rain or Shine - Package Includes

- 6 nights, full hookups at a friendly RV park
- Information sessions explaining the South Fork area presented by a Texas Master Naturalist
- Enjoy exploring the area on guided Jeeps, ATVs or high clearance vehicles. No low clearance vehicles, please.
- Spud Fest Pot Luck dinner
- Fishing in the beautiful on-site pond
- Announcements and social hours
- Catered meals
- Souvenir HOP name badge
- Your HOP hosts
- Gratuities
- And much more!

For more information about this HOP, click:

https://www.escapees.com/skp_files/hop/event.php?id=51

To view the upcoming HOPs, click:

https://www.escapees.com/fun/hops

To register for this HOP or any upcoming HOPs, contact:

The HOP Department 936-327-8873, or toll free at 888-757-2582

For more information, email us at: hopinfo@escapees.com

Prices for this HOP

Two-person rig: \$615.00 Additional person: \$199.00 One-person rig: \$459.00

20 of 24 20 of 24

^{*}Subject to change.



The Power of Social Media

With so many people on the move, the internet has made staying in touch much easier. To help you connect with each other, and with us, Escapees has established accounts on several popular social media avenues. Follow us on your preferred platform to stay current on RVing news, Escapees events and to see what your fellow SKPs are up to.

Facebook

With 21,000+ likes, it's no surprise that Escapees members are getting involved on our Facebook page. This is a great way for you to stay involved and up to date on what's going on with the club. Second to our Club newsletter, the Facebook page is where you can be the first to know important and timely information. You can also join a variety of member groups, such as: SKPs-Escapees RV Club (members-only, official group), Escapee Friends, WARE, Escapees Boomers BOF, Rainbow Plantation, and many more!



"Like" the official Escapees RV Club page

For our working SKPs, we have created an Xscapers Facebook page. Join our 13,000+ followers to stay current on Xscapers-focused events, learn about working remotely, share ideas for traveling with children and see what's going on with your fellow Xscapers.

"Like" the official Xscapers page



The Power of Social Media

(continued)



RVillage is an ever-growing social network specifically designed for RVers. With over 86,000 members you are sure to find some new friends with like interests for you to connect with and meet on the road. You can create get-togethers with ease and invite others in your campground or around you to join in on the fun. Be sure to join the Escapees RV Club or Xscapers group and find the 4,000+ fellow that are already connecting with each other on RVillage. You will also

members that are already connecting with each other on RVillage. You will also find that many of the Escapees chapters are participating on the site!

New to RVillage? Here are some tutorials to help get you started!

Don't forget to grab your Escapees and Xscapers badges when you create your profile!

Join the Escapees RV Club group

Join the Xscapers group

Instagram



If you love to share photos of your adventures, Instagram was made just for you. There is a huge RVing community taking part and sharing their pictures and videos of their journey on the road. Some great ways to find other like-minded travelers would be to search for hashtags that relate to you such as #RVing. We encourage you to take part in the community and use

#escapeesrvclub or #xscapers to share your photos with us. Who knows-your photo may end up on our profile, shared with hundreds of other RVers!

New to Instagram? Here's a tutorial on how to get started!

Follow the Escapees RV Club page



The Power of Social Media

(continued)

Twitter

For those who like to keep it short and sweet, Escapees has created a Twitter account! Here you'll find, in 140 characters or less, updates on events, recent posts from RV bloggers, news articles about Escapees and more. Tweet us at www.twitter.com/escapeesrvclub

Twitter is a fantastic platform for staying up to date on industry news, trends and connecting with RVers from around the world. At www.twitter.com/xscapers we tweet about what's trending in remote work, interesting destinations for RVing families, innovations in RV design and retweeting posts from industry professionals and fellow RVers.



Do you wish you had more room in your RV for Pinterest projects? Us too! With so many great ideas out there for remodels, upgrades, gadgets, recipes and such, it's hard to narrow down your favorites. Try as we might, we're struggling right along with you. Follow us on Pinterest to see our favorite RV-friendly recipes,

decorating ideas, RV bloggers, travel inspiration, gadgets and more. But don't blame us when you find yourself repurposing that awkward cabinet in the corner of your rig!

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 Gerner

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 Palmmetto Cove RV

"Wake up in the Smoky Mountains

Rally Hosts: TBD

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