



# ESCAPEES - CHAPTER 29 CAROLINA ROVERS October 2019 NEWSLETTER



President, Craig Rickenbach  
SKP#72083



Vice-President, Michael Tasto  
SKP#127019



Secretary, Don Smart  
SKP#107136



Treasurer, Terri Wirtz  
SKP#93910



Officer at Large, Steve Masterson  
SKP#95338



Officer at Large / Rally  
Coordinator - Bruce Long  
SKP #60805



Newsletter Editor, Dianne Wood  
SKP #113382



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Good Fall to everyone FINALLY. Hope everyone is well and enjoyed their wondering to destinations planned or unplanned whichever the case. Sometimes the unplanned is more fun! Fall Rally at Bear Creek was a success for two reasons. First the Rally was attended by 28 members and 13 rigs. Lots of food and socializing. I sat during the potluck just looking around and my heart was warmed by all the talking and socializing going on by everyone. This is what we are all about. Kudos to Robin and Dave Hyatt for hosting another great Rally. Those who went exploring Asheville came back with enthusiastic stories. Second is personal to Marie and I. Twenty-two months, one neck and two back surgery's, I actually completed a camping trip with no pain. I appreciate everyone's thoughts and help during this difficult and frustrating time.

I thank Don Smart for his service as Secretary and his input during the past two years. He has informed us that he will not run again but will complete his term. If you are interested in running for Secretary at Spring Rally, please notify Vice President Mike Tasto.

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** (Continued)

When Spring Rally 2020 in Myrtle Beach was booked, we were given a site rate with stipulation that price may change. All campgrounds we contact now add this stipulation. Since we originally contacted Cypress Camping Resort ownership of the campground has changed. Like everything else the price has increased. The new daily rate will be \$52 minus 10% discount plus tax as long as we have 10+ rigs. Further info is at the end of this newsletter.

I saw a post on Facebook concerning a Wedding invitation. It requested guests to RSVP and if you don't respond you need to bring your own chair, sandwich and drink. So let's start making those reservations, then respond to one of your hosts, Wilkes [REDACTED] or Rickenbach [REDACTED], after making reservations so they can better plan another great Rally.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2021 ACRE. Dates are April 16 thru 18 for Boot Camp with ACRE to follow on April 20 thru 26. ACRE will again be held at Pine Mountain RV Resort, Pine Mountain, GA.

Craig Rickenbach, President  
SKP# 72083



# Spring Rally 2020

## Elections to be held for President & Secretary

If you are interested in Running for Either of the positions,  
please Notify Mike Tasto at 

## Convergence 2020

Huntington Beach State Park  
Murrells Inlet, SC

Marie & Craig Rickenbach will be in HBSP from January 13  
thu February 15 Site 123

# ***Escapees Chapter 29 Minutes of the General Membership Meeting October 4, 2019***

Board members present: Craig Rickenbach, President  
Mike Tasto, Vice President  
Don Smart, Secretary  
Terri Wirtz, Treasurer

## President - Craig Rickenbach

- Meeting opened at 10:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and introduction of Officers
- Thanks to Robin & David Hyatt, Rally Hosts for an excellent job.

## Vice President's Report – Mike Tasto

- Welcome to all those in attendance

## Secretary's Report – Don Smart

- Secretary read the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of April 05, 2019. Motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

## Treasurer's Report – Terri Wirtz

- Beginning account balance as of last rally April 5, 2019 was \$1,240.91. Ending balance as of October 3, 2019 is \$1,142.07.
- Spring rally deficit was \$54.80.
- \$140 has been collected for the fall rally, with no expenses paid so far.
- Dues collected for 2019 since last April is \$35.00.
- Dues collected for 2020 is \$25.00.
- Dues collected for 2021 is \$10.00.
- T-shirt sales at the Fall Rally have totaled \$104.00.
- Ending balance (before current rally expenses) is \$1,391.18.
- There are 28 Fall Rally attendees (13 rigs).
- Terri explained the reason for dues payments being required to be made payable to "Terri Wirtz."
- Dues paid in advance are set aside in the treasury to be used for expenses of the appropriate year.

## Officer at Large Report – Bruce Long, Rally Coordinator – no report

# ***Escapees Chapter 29 Minutes of the General Membership Meeting (Continued) October 4, 2019***

## President - Craig Rickenbach

- The Rally Coordinator would like to have everyone recommend potential campgrounds for future rallies. Locations can include campgrounds in Virginia and Georgia close to the border with North and South Carolina. The rally guidelines, as well as the rally host guidelines are on the Chapter website.
- There is a Chapter Sunshine Committee person. If anyone knows of a member who is ill, having surgery, or experienced a death in the member's immediate family, let us know so that we can send a card.

## Newsletter Editor – Dianne Wood

- This past year 585 emails were sent to Escapees members on the Chapter email list to ask if they would like to continue to receive Chapter emails. There were only 14 responses. Currently 93 emails are being sent to members. Emails are sent to both husbands and wives to make sure everyone is aware of Chapter activities. Additionally, there are 15 non-members on the email list.
- Members should check the new directory to make sure their information is correct. The directory does not go to non-members. Also, the directory is not published on the Chapter website because of the personal information that is contained in the directory. Members should let Dianne know if there is any information in their listings that they would prefer not to have listed (phone #, email address, etc.) so that she can delete it from the directory.
- The quarterly newsletter will be published by the end of October. Trip pictures, member articles, RV maintenance tips should be submitted to Dianne for the newsletter. Just send the article or pictures with captions. All submissions are encouraged. Past newsletters have been up to 38 pages long.
- Dianne gave honorable mention to Ron Johnson for his “gorgeous” pictures and detailed articles.
- Terri pointed out that there is also a newsletter section for members to recommend service facilities that they have had good experience with.
- There is also a classified section for members selling RV's or RV related items.

## Sunshine Report – Helen Young (absent) – no report

## Old Business – None

# ***Escapees Chapter 29 Minutes of the General Membership Meeting (Continued) October 4, 2019***

## New Business

- 2020 Spring Rally hosts will be Duncan & Linda Wilkes. Rally co-hosts are needed.
- Rally will be April 16-19, 2020 at Cypress Camping Resort in South Myrtle Beach. Tentatively, there will be a convergence beginning on the preceding Monday.
- The Fall Rally will be October 1-4, 2019, at Crosswinds Family Campground, Linwood, North Carolina. Steve & Dianne Wood will be rally hosts. They have volunteered to have the covered dish get together at their home. Rally co-hosts are needed.
- The Board is considering a joint rally with Chapter 42, Kentucky/Tennessee. Crosswinds Family Campground & River Plantation Campground have been suggested as potential rally locations.
- Bruce Long needs suggestions for future rallies.
- It was suggested that the Fall Rally be later in the month for more moderate temperatures.
- Pictures to be taken immediately following the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

Don & Maxine Smart  
SKP#107136



## ***New Members***

We would like to Welcome our new members who joined us during our 2019 Fall Rally in Asheville, NC. We enjoyed socializing with them and getting to know them better. We look forward to seeing them at our future rallies!!!



Duncan & Linda Wilkes



Mark & Darcy Norton



Robert Barbi &  
Barbara Jensen

# RECOGNITION FOR Steve Masterson

Editor's Note: This information was included in the July 2019 Newsletter. For those of you who are new members, I'm posting again for your information.

Dianne Wood

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*(This email was sent directly to Steve Masterson):*

As you may know, we recently announced the Peterson Spirit Award last month. This award is meant to recognize those that demonstrated a specific action that call back to our core value of caring and sharing. You had several submission for this award! However, we feel your continued support over combined years is something that would not be properly represented under the Peterson Spirit Award program and guidelines. With that being said, we would love to present you with the Escapees President's Award, which is the highest honor that can be given to an Escapees member! We would be honored to give you free admission and present you with this award in person at the 60<sup>th</sup> Escapade in Rock Springs, WY on June 21-26, 2020. If you are unable to attend we will make other accommodations for you to receive your award.

***Excellence can be obtained if you...***

**CARE** *more than others think is wise,*  
**RISK** *more than others think is safe,*  
**DREAM** *more than others think is practical,*  
**EXPECT** *more than others think is possible.*

Again, we can not thank you enough for all you have done and continue to do for this great organization. Without people like you, we would not be the same!

Sincerely,  
Travis Carr  
**President | Escapees RV Club**

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





# TRAVELER'S CORNER

## Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta 2019

### By Steve Masterson #95338

In the summer we leave the heat and humidity of Florida and travel west. This year we included the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta as one of our last stops before returning home. In my opinion, the Balloon Fiesta is a must see if you are able to travel during the summer. This 9 day fiesta occurs each year in October and is the largest balloon fiesta in the world with more than 500 balloons. Each morning they start the day with a pre-dawn (aka arrive in the parking lot at 6:00am) burn where 20 to 30 balloons ignite their propane burners to fill the balloons. The air is brisk and the view is awesome.



Then at about 8:00am they have a mass ascension where over the next 2 hours hundreds and hundreds of balloons are launched.

# TRAVELER'S CORNER

## Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta 2019 (Continued)

By Steve Masterson #95338

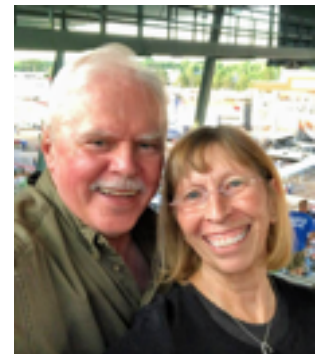


Every evening they have another mass ascension. How do the words to that song by Luke Bryan go? "Sunrise, Sunburn, Sunset repeat". Same is true at the balloon fiesta. Weather permitting, they repeat the same schedule for 9 days.

Now for the other news. It is not cheap. Camping runs from approximately \$50 per night for a campground 20 miles away to \$200 per night for the Presidential sites located on the fairgrounds overlooking the balloon launch site. If you stay off site there is a \$15 per car charge for parking then a \$10 per person charge to enter the launch area. As I said, it is not cheap but I feel it is totally worth it. The memories will remain with you for a lifetime.

Email me, text or call me if you want more info

Steve Masterson



# TRAVELER'S CORNER

## Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta 2019 (Continued)

### By Steve Masterson #95338

Editor's Note: I took the liberty of "borrowing" more of Steve's pictures from FaceBook - hope this was all right with Steve. Remember...."it's easier to get forgiveness than to get permission". LOL

Dianne



# TRAVELER'S CORNER

## ABQ International Balloon Festival 2019

By Ron Johnson #104509

My first trip to the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta and it did not disappoint. My first full day of my three night stay at the fiesta I was up at 4:30A.M so I could be at the launch field for the Dawn Patrol launch.

**Dawn Patrol**



Ascent Accompanied  
by Singing of National  
Anthem

**TRAVELER'S CORNER**  
**ABQ International Balloon Festival 2019 (Continued)**  
**By Ron Johnson #104509**



**TRAVELER'S CORNER**  
**ABQ International Balloon Festival 2019 (Continued)**  
**By Ron Johnson #104509**

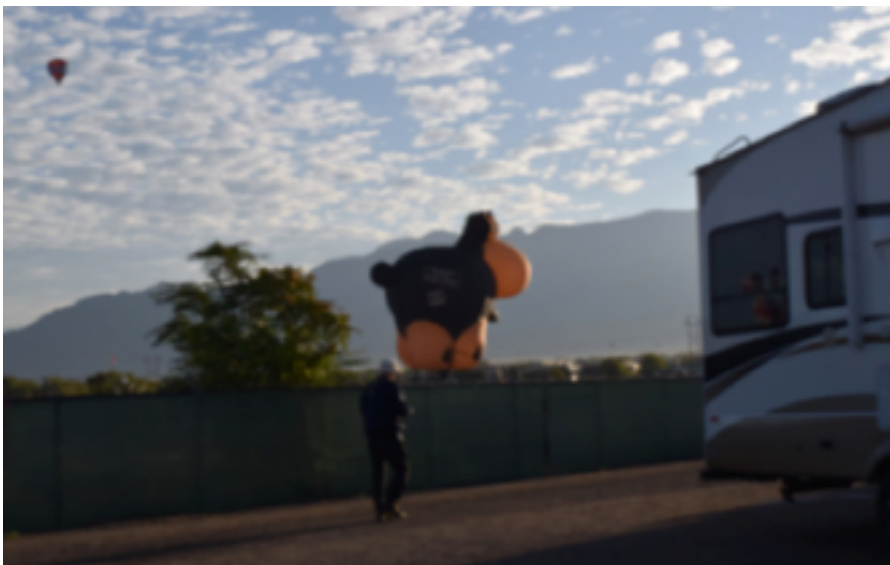


# TRAVELER'S CORNER

## ABQ International Balloon Festival 2019 (Continued)

### By Ron Johnson #104509

The second morning of my stay saw balloons raining out of the sky in and around the RVs in the South RV Lot. The cow even came down!



**Ron Johnson**  
**SKP#104509**

# Fall Rally 2019

## Bear Creek RV Park & Campground

### Asheville, NC





# Fall Rally 2019 (Continued)

## Bear Creek RV Park & Campground

### Asheville, NC



# Fall Rally 2019 (Continued)

## Bear Creek RV Park & Campground

### Asheville, NC



# ***Cautionary Tales***

Cautionary Tales includes reports on issues that we as RVers need to be aware of on the road or through RV internet sites. As an RV family, it is our responsibility to pass on information to each other and help us all stay safe on the road. As we publish these in the newsletter, they will also be posted on our web site for future reference.

If you have a submission for Cautionary Tales for our July Newsletter, please send them directly to me. 

Thank You  
Dianne Wood  
#113382



# **Cautionary Tales**

## **RV Generator Boxes**

**By Ron Johnson #104509**

For years I transported my two generators in either my truck or RV. Each use of the generators required retrieving them from storage, and setting them up including connecting the parallel cables. Then, when finished with the generators, the setup had to be broken down and placed back in storage.

The process became more inconvenient each year; then I heard about the generator boxes shown in the photo used to transport and store generators. After some research and a phone call to the distributor I ordered two of the boxes.

The boxes can be installed either with a bumper mount adapter or a 2" receiver adapter. I had neither a rear bumper nor a 2" receiver on the RV so I had to order a receiver specifically designed for RVs from etrailer.com. After installing the receiver (a horror story in itself), I installed the generator boxes using the 2" receiver adapter.

Additional information for the boxes, including the companion third box used for additional fuel storage, can be found at [rvgeneratorbox.com](http://rvgeneratorbox.com).



Ron Johnson  
SKP #104509

# RV Service Listings

We are providing chapter members with a list of RV service centers / businesses that we have used that we would recommend. Below is the list we collected so far. If anyone wishes to add to this list, please send to me and I'll repost in the January Newsletter. Please include the vendor's name, address, phone number, and email and website if available. Member contributor's names are in { } in case you need more information. This list will also be posted to our web site.

*Note: This list was not sanctioned by Escapees, Inc. or Chapter 29, but merely provided for the assistance of our members while traveling.*

- AZ Unlimited Collision & RV, 8112 North 75th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345 {Raymond Nuzzolo}  
623-979-7565 [www.unlimitedcollisionaz.com](http://www.unlimitedcollisionaz.com) Attn: Matt Gorges
- FL Randy's Mobile RV Service, Inc., Howey in The Hills, FL 34737 {Raymond Nuzzolo}  
352-324-0288 407-497-7266 (Cell) Attn: Randy
- GA Maxie Price RV - 4601 Atlanta Hwy, Loganville, GA 30052 {Don Jackson}  
770-554-2000 [maxiepricerv.com](http://maxiepricerv.com)
- NC Bob's RV Repair , 5929 Old Greenlee Rd., Marion, NC {Jan Austan}  
828-724-4522 or 828-460-7352  
[bobsrvbodyshop.com](http://bobsrvbodyshop.com)
- NC Shaw RV , 1650 US HWY 1, Youngsville, NC 27596  
919-556-6553 [shawrvnc.com](http://shawrvnc.com)
- NC GGT RV (Golden Gait Trailers), 5051 Davidson Hwy, Concord, NC {Steve Wood}  
28027 704-743-5280 [goldengait.com](http://goldengait.com)
- NC Country Roads RV Center- 2609 Enterprise Rd, Lexington, NC 27295 {Steve Wood}  
336-775-2100 [CountryRoadsRVCenter.com](http://CountryRoadsRVCenter.com)  
(Does not service motorhomes (engines) - 5th wheels, travel trailers, and house portion of motorhomes only)
- NC RV & Camper Refrigeration, Inc., 5808 Stockbridge Drive  
Monroe, NC 28110 704-821-9119  
[www.rvrcarolina.com](http://www.rvrcarolina.com) [www.coolyourcmper.com](http://www.coolyourcmper.com)  
Attn: Sam Obermiller
- NC Truck Fleet Painting (for body work), 5301 Stowe Lane, {Steve Wood}  
Charlotte, NC 28262 704-455-5315 [truckfleetpainting.com](http://truckfleetpainting.com)
- NC Snider Fleet Solutions (tire service), 300 E. Meadowview Rd., {Steve Wood}  
Greensboro, NC 27406 336-275-7188  
(Note: this is a national company and more locations can be found by visiting [sniderfleet.com](http://sniderfleet.com))
- NC Country Camping Corner, 101 Oak Grove Rd., Kings Mountain, NC {Craig Rickenbach}  
28086 704-734-0595 [www.countrycorner.com](http://www.countrycorner.com)
- NC Love's Tire Service, 1217 Trollingwood Hawfields Rd., Mebane, NC {Raymond Nuzzolo}  
27302. 919-563-1814. [www.loves.com/locations/667](http://www.loves.com/locations/667)

# ***Classifieds***

## **FOR SALE**

Thousand Trails/NACO Platinum Nationwide Membership.

Price: \$250 plus \$750 transfer fee

Location: Nationwide including Canada (63 parks)

This Thousand Trails, NACO Membership is one of the best you can find. Stay 21 consecutive nights at any preserve, then immediately go to another preserve (no days out of parks). No limit on number of camping days per year. No nightly fees. Make reservations 90 days in advance. The selling price does not include a mandatory \$750.00 transfer fee to Thousand Trails paid by buyer. The transfer of this membership will be handled between current member, buyer, and Thousand Trails. This is a great deal for full timers. My current annual membership fee is \$612.00 and pays for itself with about 15 nights of camping each year. My annual cost has increased only about \$5.00 in four years. I can't guarantee the buyer will have the same yearly rate but it probably won't drastically change. Also, the annual fee for the first year will be prorated based on date of membership transfer.



**Ron Johnson #104509**

# Classifieds *(continued)*

**FOR SALE: 2019 Coachmen Leprechaun 319MB**  
**\$74,995. Only 3670 miles.**

## **Features:**

F450 Ford Chassis  
2 Slides  
Full Body Paint  
30 Amp Electric  
Fully Automatic Hydraulic leveling system  
Onan Generator 4000  
Standard Heavy Duty 2" Receiver  
Dometic 21' Power Patio Awning  
Privacy windshield cover  
Outside Entertainment Center TV/Radio  
Outside table / sink  
Refrigerator in back outside storage area  
Dometic water heater  
Thetford Fresh Water Flush Toilet  
Atwood Furnace (LP)  
Electric air conditioning / heat pump  
Bed over cab / ladder / privacy curtain  
Fireplace for ambiance and heat  
2 Theatre Seats w/center console and cup holders  
Swivel Seats (Driver and Passenger)  
Furrion LED HD TV in living area (retractable)  
USB/Multi Outlet Charging Stations  
True Induction double burner stove  
High Pointe Microwave / Convection Oven  
Dometic Refrigerator (Electric / LP)  
Single stainless steel kitchen sink  
Booth Dinette (converts to bed)  
Queen Bed in Bedroom

CONTACT: Steve & Dianne Wood SKP#113382



Many more pictures available on request.



319MB FLOORPLAN  
Premier - Ford 450



### SPECIFICATIONS

Wheelbase:	227"	GVWR:	14000 lb.
GCWR:	20000 lb.	GVWR Rear:	9000 lb.
GVWR Front:	10000 lb.	Fuel Capacity:	35 gal.
Exterior Length:	32' 11"	Subtotal Weight:	12' 10"
Exterior Width:	100"	Fresh Water:	30 gal.
Gray Water:	32 gal.	Black Water:	20 gal.
Awning Size:	21'		



## ***...Least We Forget....***

This is just a beautifully written piece; and so true. Take a couple of minutes to read it. You'll be glad you did.

### **A WINTER FRIEND**

This article is so befitting for all of us... take time to ponder... the last statement cannot be refuted:-

### **AND THEN IT IS WINTER**

You know time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems like yesterday that I was young, just married, and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all those years went.

I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is... the winter of my life, and it catches me by surprise... How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those "older people" were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey... they move slower and I see an older person in myself now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me... but, I see the great change... Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so... now I enter this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last... this I know, that when it's over on this earth... it's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done... things I should have done, but indeed, there are also many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet... let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do



# **...Least We Forget....**

**(Continued)**

it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can TODAY, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life... so, LIVE FOR TODAY and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember.. and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!

"Life" is a GIFT to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

Remember: "It is Health that is real Wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."

- Your kids are becoming you.....but your grandchildren are perfect!
- Going out is good.. coming home is even better!
- You forget names... but it's OK, because other people forgot they even knew you!!!
- You realize you're never going to be really good at anything.... especially golf.
- The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.
- You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep."
- You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch..
- You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what?"..."when?"...???
- Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.
- You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless?!"
- What used to be freckles are now liver spots.
- Everybody whispers.
- You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear.
- But "Old" is good in some things:
- Old Songs, Old movies ...
- and best of all, our dear ...OLD FRIENDS!! - Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!"

Submitted By: (Taken From FaceBook)  
Steve Wood  
SKP #113382



# ***Carolina Rovers - Upcoming Events***

## **2020 Spring Rally - Chapter 29**

**When:** April 16 - 19, 2020

**Where:** Cypress Camping Resort  
101 Cypress RV Way  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588



**GPS Address: 2200 River Road  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588  
(Turn by Socastee High School  
where buses park.)**

**Rally Hosts:** Duncan & Linda Wilkes [REDACTED], Hosts  
Craig & Marie Rickenbach [REDACTED]  
Co-Hosts

**Rally Fee:** TBD

**Campground Fee:** \$52.00 less 10%; plus tax.

**Name of Group** Carolina Rovers, Escapees Chapter 29  
**When Making  
Reservation:**

**Phone:** 843-293-0300  
[www.cypresscampingresort.com](http://www.cypresscampingresort.com)

### **CONVERGENCE**

We will be having a Convergence from Monday - Thursday (until rally registration) for anyone who would like to join us early. There will be no agenda, "planned" activities, or fees during the Convergence. Come socialize, kick back, and have fun. There is not a weekly campground rate but the rally rate will be honored.

**Disclaimer - Although not expected, campground rates are subject to change.**

# **Carolina Rovers - Upcoming Events**

*(Continued)*

## **2020 Fall Rally - Chapter 29**



**When:** October 1 - 4, 2020

**Where:** Cross Winds Family Campground  
160 Campground Ln.  
Linwood, NC 27299

**Rally Hosts:** Steve & Dianne Wood [REDACTED], Hosts  
Mark & Darcy Norton [REDACTED]  
(Co-Hosts)  
Charlie & Jenny Morrison [REDACTED]  
(CoHosts)

**Rally Fee:** TBD

**Campground Fee:** \$40.00 for 30 amp; \$45 for 50 amp.;  
early/late rate, per night

**Name of Group  
When Making  
Reservation:** Carolina Rovers, Escapees Chapter 29

**Phone:** 336-853-4567  
[www.crosswindsfamilycampground.com](http://www.crosswindsfamilycampground.com)

**Disclaimer - Although not expected, campground rates are subject to change.**