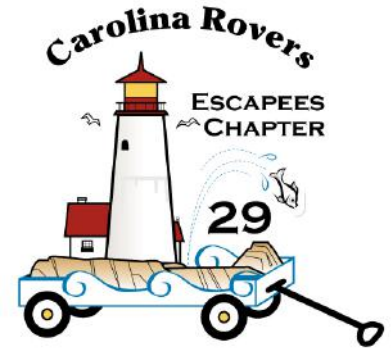


ESCAPEES - CHAPTER 29 CAROLINA ROVERS April 2020 NEWSLETTER



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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The new saying is "We're all in this together". I would prefer to add one more word to that line. "We're all in this CAMPGROUND together". Another new saying is "the new normal". First, new is not always better. Second, I hope this is not normal. I prefer looking forward to going back to camping perhaps with new habits that will allow us to enjoy our rallies. We all just stare at our rigs, sitting in our yards when we would rather be headed to the campground.

Marie & I sincerely hope and Pray that you and your families are staying healthy. This virus has been a mess. I was saddened to cancel the Spring Rally. About a week later Myrtle Beach was shut down and all visitors told to leave. Campgrounds and hotels were shut down until at least May 1. Fall Rally 2020, October 1 thru 4, at Cross Winds, Linwood, NC is still on the schedule. Since we could not hold a Convergence at Spring Rally, we will try again at Cross Winds. The Rally rate will be good for early and late arrivals. They do offer a weekly rate with 7th night free as well. Up to you when you're making reservations. Hopefully this virus will have run its course and we can once again gather together (see following info).

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued)

Officers are still looking at 2021 Rallies in hopes we can announce dates and campgrounds soon. Campgrounds are not considered essential. This has made it very difficult for full timers and it has made it hard to talk to them about booking.

Don't forget to plan for 2021 SKP ACRE (All Chapters Rally East) being held at River Vista RV Resort, Dillard, GA. Dates are Boot Camp April 16 to April 18 and ACRE April 19 to 25. More information and tentative schedule can be found at skpacre.weebly.com.

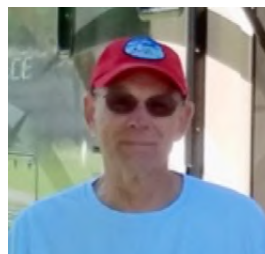
Mark your calendars for Escapade 2022. This seems like an eternity from now but will be here before we know it. Escapade 2022 is scheduled for June 19 thru 24 in Lebanon, Tennessee. It has been six years since last Escapade was held East of the Mississippi. I implore everyone to put this on your travel list for 2022. The better turn out of Eastern Escapees the better our chance of getting Escapade scheduled in the East more often.

Since we could not hold elections of new officers at Spring Rally we will now hold them at Fall Rally. If anyone would like to run for President or Secretary please notify Mike Tasto at 919-995-2862 o [REDACTED]

Air Hugs,

Craig Rickenbach, President

Craig Rickenbach, President
SKP# 72083



Fall 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 

or 919-995-2862

Convergence 2020

Cross Winds Family Campground
Linwood, NC
September 28 - 30

New Members

We would like to introduce our new members who joined us recently. We look forward to seeing them at our future rallies and invite you to join me in welcoming them to our chapter.

J. Russell and Dianna Cartwright
SKP# 157646
(No Picture Currently Available)

Carolyn Lewis
SKP# 159800
(No Picture Currently Available)



Using “Technology” to Survive Corona Pandemic

By Steve Masterson

I hope y'all are doing well during these difficult times. We are doing well here in South Florida (100 miles north of the hot zone, Miami) as is our family in Florida, Pittsburg and Charlotte. To help us stay relatively sane and connected with family and friends we have been using “Facetime”, Apples Video Conferencing app. On Facetime you can video conference with up to 21 people, which is pretty cool. During the call you will see a small picture of everyone who is on the call. Then when someone speaks, their picture gets bigger and comes to the center of the screen. Really cool (the Techno Geek in me loves it). So, what have we been using it for?

We have a granddaughter in Mooresville who had her 10th birthday this month and she was really bummed out when she learned she could not have a real party with family, friends, and cake and ice cream. So, we had a virtual party and it was really cool. We sang Happy Birthday and one by one everyone's picture got bigger so she could see us and Kiera loved it.

For those who know my son, you know he is a brilliant kid who almost always needs assistance with carpentry. LOL So we used Facetime to help him install a new organizer system in his garage in Mooresville.

We have a big, blended family with 12 grandkids from 26 years old to 16 months and the younger ones keep getting cuter and cuter. Then they turn into teenagers. LOL. Naturally all are adorable and perfect kids. Lily is our 5-year-old and she will call me via Facetime to play. She will show me her creations and sometimes put the phone or iPad in the elevator of her Barbie Dream House and take me up and down as she remodels the house. The calls could last forever if she had her way.

Speaking of teenagers, we have a 17-year-old grandson in Mooresville who has been dealing with the trauma of having his senior prom and possibly his graduation cancelled and he misses his Pop Pop. So he will FaceTime me to show me the things he has added to his car. He really enjoys showing me how handy he is.

I could go on and on but I think you get the point. We use technology to help us bridge the gap during these times of isolation. This morning I had a virtual appoint with my Dr to avoid going to the office. Actually, I hope this will continue after this virus passes.

Be well and stay safe.

Steve Masterson (AKA “Techno Geek”)

Steve & Kathy (Wertz) Masterson
SKP#95338



2020 Myrtle Beach Spring Rally

By Duncan Wilkes

Linda and I joined Escapees and the Chapter 29 Carolina Rovers last fall and had a blast making new friends at the Ashville 2019 Fall Rally. We had so much fun that we volunteered to host the Spring 2020 rally in Myrtle Beach. While somewhat nervous about the hosting side, we did get wonderful guidance and support from Craig and Marie Rickenbach as seasoned Escapees members. We also joined them in Myrtle Beach in February to check out the campground, which was under a major renovation, and to complete the itinerary for the rally.

With all that work in place and having at least 22 RV rigs registered including many new faces, it broke our heart to have to cancel the event. The new structure would not have been the same if held, as Escapees as a national organization is known as a hugging organization. Everyone hugs! Well we were working on implementing “air-hugs” as no hand shaking, fist bumps or elbow bumps were allowed. The whole nature of Escapees and our chapter is all about the building of relationships and having close contact. Health wise none of this would have worked and also Horry County totally shut down the tourist venues and also the campgrounds, so that made our decision final.

With all this said we have agreed to rehost the next Spring Rally in 2021 - the location is to be determined. Much of the work has been done, but the most important part, all of us getting together, will have to wait. There is a scheduled rally this coming fall in NC, but we will be in Albuquerque for the Balloon festival with Escapees national, God willing.

We wish all of you health and safety and, like you, we are anxious to get back in our RV and on the road again.

Blessings and “air-hugs”,
Spring 2020/2021 Rally Hosts
Duncan and Linda Wilkes

Duncan & Linda Wilkes
SKP# 154466



Getting the Fifth Wheel Ready

By Terri Wirtz

Getting the fifth wheel ready for traveling after a winter next to the house

1. In February, I made a late March appointment with Shaw RV Service, Youngsville, to inspect the roof.
2. A couple days before the appointment, I returned the battery to the 5W. It had been sitting in the garage all winter and occasionally I would remember to charge it. Apparently not enough because I could not turn on lights, or raise the jacks. I had to plug in the electric cord to hitch up and again when I got to Shaw RV so they could put it in their shop. (More on the battery later). I checked tires for air and road worthiness.
3. On the morning of appointment, I double checked to make sure the refrigerator was closed and any cleaning supplies or other items had been stowed from counters. Mentally ran through all chores to get ready for road travel, even though the 5W has been sitting quietly for months and slides and awning had not been opened recently.
4. I hitched to truck and drove to Shaw's. The trailer was backed up to shop and attached to electricity so it could be unhitched from truck. I reminded service people to check roof for any winter damage and necessary sealant, check AC, fill tires.
5. A couple days later, Shaw called to let me know that they had found some issues with roof needing sealant, the front-end cap in particular. In 2015, the endcap had totally separated from the roof while on a summer trip and the sealant had been replaced twice then, once in Kansas City, again by the manufacturer in Indiana, and then again by Shaw in 2018. I was not surprised about the new areas of leakage.
6. Before I could bring the trailer home, I had to replace most of the boards in the driveway which kept the tires off the dirt and leveled the trailer, raising the curbside up about 4 inches because of the slope. Many of the boards were old deck boards and eventually splinter with the weight of the trailer rolling up over them frequently. Some of the replacements were old 2x8 deck support boards that I had cut to about 5 ft long.

Getting the Fifth Wheel Ready (continued)

By Terri Wirtz

7. The trailer was in Shaw's overflow lot where there are no electric hookups. A service man came to check which was fortunate because I could not get the front jacks up. I told him that the battery was apparently not charged. He hooked his truck up to the trailer to make sure it was not my truck as the problem. Then we checked the 7-pin electric cord connection and the fuses in the truck. After determining that all the fuses in place were good, there seemed to be one fuse missing completely. Mike called another service man who came over and both men were perplexed because (1) in place of the fuse, there was a plug, and (2) why was it not discovered when Shaw put in a new 7-pin connection in the truck 2 years ago. After some searching, they found a fuse to put in, and then I was able to get the jacks up. I am still mystified because I have owned this truck and pulled a fifth wheel with it since 2002.
8. Once home and backed into place, I plugged the trailer into the 30amp outlet to recharge the battery. Then I washed the yellow pine pollen off the exterior of both truck and trailer.
9. To do yet: drain the antifreeze; fill the water heater. Then fill the fresh water tank with bleach water, refill with baking soda and water, and refill again with plain fresh water. Vacuum, dust, and start to replace all pantry items and cleaning supplies. With the country still under stay-at-home orders from the coronavirus pandemic, I believe I still have time to do all this before we are allowed to hit the road again.

Terri Wirtz
SKP# 93910



Newsletter Editor's Note: *Remember, before beginning to travel again (hopefully soon) routine maintenance for your RV is critical to be safe - for you, your family, and others on the road. Be like Terri.....be safe.*

How Living in an Airstream Prepared Us For a Pandemic

By gonestreamin

Things people sheltering in place due to COVID-19 might be saying:

- I'm on day three of not washing my hair.
- I don't know the last time I wore pants that don't have an elastic waistband.
- I'm proud of myself – I brushed my teeth before noon today.
- My neighbor has seen me wearing the same thing ??? days in a row.
- Feeling fancy – I shaved my legs today.
- Bra? Who wears a bra?
- When's the last time we talked to someone face-to-face that doesn't live under this roof?
- Did I shower today?
- What day is it?

Just add, 'I'm about four months past due for my biannual haircut' and this is what full-time RVers are saying on the daily. Welcome to our world!

It's been interesting watching friends and family, and society in general, adapt to life during COVID-19. About a week after stay-at-home orders were issued, we started seeing social media posts from friends and family that made us chuckle. People were already "losing their minds" after being home with their loved ones for seven days. Seven. Days. In 1800 sqft homes. With a yard. And a finished basement. And multiple bathrooms with doors that actually give them privacy. And a full-size kitchen refrigerator and a garage refrigerator and a basement refrigerator. And a washer and dryer. With grocery delivery available. And numerous nearby eating establishments offering takeout and delivery service.

We chuckled.

Here's the thing: We are on day 820 of living in ~200 sqft. Short of a combined handful of weeks of business trips, we have spent 24 hours a day together, every day, during those 820 days. When we say we live, work, and travel full time in an Airstream, what we are really saying is we are ALWAYS TOGETHER. This togetherness has REALLY prepared us for all of the sheltering in place, social distancing, and stay-at-home orders on the planet. Here's what else has:

How Living in an Airstream Prepared Us For a Pandemic

(continued)

- Isolation – While we aren't usually in complete isolation from other humans, we ARE usually in complete isolation from other humans we know and love. We've had friends and family visit us sporadically since we've been on the road, but for the most part, it's just the two of us.
- Working from Home – This is a super new concept to a lot of people, but Travis has been doing it since 2011 and Missy has been doing it since 2009. Owning a business that allows us to work from home is actually the main reason we were able to become full-time RVers. However, we do understand that working for ourselves as opposed to working for an employer is a completely different ball game from what most people are experiencing now.
- Stocking Up – Sometimes we're going to be traveling through areas devoid of a real grocery store or a Walmart, so we have to stock up on items we'll need in the upcoming weeks and months, including frozen foods, dry goods, hand soap, dish soap, shower soap, mouthwash, paper towels, paper plates, and yes, the ever-so-popular toilet paper, disinfectant spray/wipes, disposable gloves, and hand sanitizer. RV-safe toilet paper can be hard to come by on the road, so when we find it, we stock up. Disinfectant spray/wipes are used to clean areas commonly touched by others, such as in RV park laundry rooms, laundromats, and the water, electric, and sewer hookups at sites. Disposable gloves are used when dealing with the sewer hose (and now gas pumps). Hand sanitizer is used after doing all the things at the laundromat, hookups, sewer hose, gas pumps, etc.
- Eating at Home – We eat at home a lot. Much more than we would like. While we often find ourselves in beautiful locales, we don't often find a lot of amazing food options. But when we do, we fully take advantage of them. Right now, though, we're able to pack enough food into our limited cabinet space and 7 cubic foot fridge and freezer to last about three weeks. And we're eating all three meals a day at home, seven days a week, without the benefit of having a dishwasher. I would give multiple rolls of toilet paper for a California burrito or an açai bowl right now.
- Working Out – Pre-road life, we were gym people. While we've been able to join gyms for short periods of times or get multi-day free trials, depending on having a gym just isn't feasible. We travel with [Bowflex SelectTech Adjustable Dumbbells](#) and the [BodyBoss 2.0 Portable Gym](#). These two things have the weight training aspect of working out covered. Travis runs and we both hike in order to get a good cardio workout in. Hikes have become more difficult with all of the park and trail closures, but there are still quite a bit available to us in our current location. The constant wind and cold temps are not helping our activity level, though!

How Living in an Airstream Prepared Us For a Pandemic

(continued)

- Entertainment – Movie theaters, sporting events, concerts, or drinks out with friends aren't usually available to us, so we aren't missing them like many probably are right now. To entertain ourselves, we do the things that many people are finding themselves turning to now: Binge TV shows, read, do puzzles, play video games, do crossword puzzles, play board games, have campfires, go for walks -- and most importantly, FaceTiming or Zooming with friends and fam. (And sometimes we even clean and organize.)

So, as you can see, social distancing and its side effects are nothing new to us. For the most part, our daily lives haven't been impacted too greatly. We've had to readjust travel routes and cancel some reservations, both willingly and unwillingly, but we're doing what we need to do in order to keep ourselves and those around us safe. When you live in an RV, you automatically live a simpler life. At a time like this, we're very grateful for this lifestyle, as we seem to be experiencing less disappointment and monotony than others.

We know that this time has been difficult for many people in many ways, and this post is in no way meant to discredit the feelings people are feeling or the difficulties people are experiencing. We miss our families too. We worry about the effect all of the closures will have on the people we love and the communities we love. We've cycled through fear, anger, disbelief, annoyance, disappointment, and many, many other emotions. We do not take the seriousness of our country's current situation lightly. But we do believe that it's okay – needed, even – to smile and laugh and make lighthearted jokes and get through these weird times with a bit of humor.

Travis and Missy



***Newsletter Editor's Note:** This article is part of a blog, written by Terri Wirtz's niece. Missy and her husband Travis have been full timers for a while now, and even though most of us are not full timers, they have captured the essence of "stay-at-home" life. Thanks to Terri for sharing (with their permission) and to Travis and Missy for allowing us to use in our newsletter. You may view their entire blog at <https://gonestreamin.com/2020/04/13/how-living-in-an-airstream-prepared-us-for-a-pandemic/>*

TRAVELER'S CORNER

Grand Tetons

By Don & Maxine Smart



TRAVELER'S CORNER

Grand Tetons (CONTINUED) By Don & Maxine Smart



Don & Maxine Smart
SKP# 107136

TRAVELER'S CORNER

North Myrtle Beach RV Resort & Drydock Little River, SC, SC By Larry & Nelli Jackson

See below photos from North Myrtle Beach RV Resort & Drydock. Very nice RV Park located in Little River, SC, right on the Inter Coastal Waterway. Pull thru and back in sites. All have concrete pads, picnic tables. Lots of room between sites. Bath houses everywhere. Huge pool with a huge water park type slide.

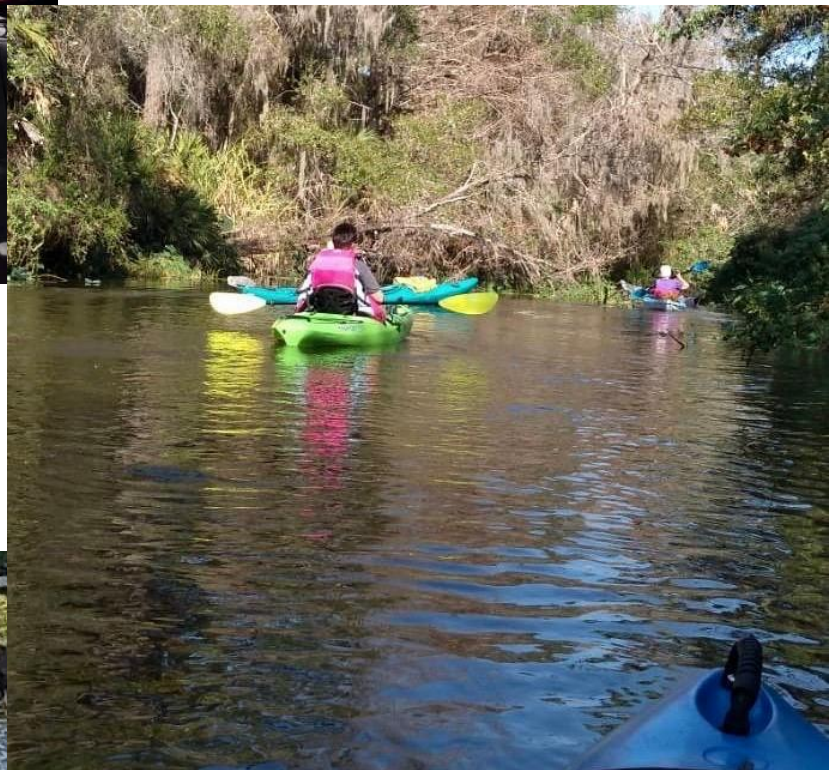


Larry & Nelli Jackson
SKP# 151884

TRAVELER'S CORNER

Hawaiian Isles RV Resort, Ruskin, FL By Mark & Darcy Norton

The Norton's are spending the winter at Hawaiian Isles RV resort in Ruskin, FL. Pictures are from our weekly paddle with the kayak club and the group enjoying lunch afterwards at Linger Lodge. We also ran into Bobbie Jo and Arnold at the Tampa RV show!! It's such a small world!!



Mark & Darcy Norton
SKP#118451



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 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
- NC Bob's RV Repair , 5929 Old Greenlee Rd., Marion, NC {Jan Austan}
828-724-4522 or 828-460-7352
bobsrvbodyshop.com
- NC Shaw RV , 1650 US HWY 1, Youngsville, NC 27596
919-556-6553 shawrvnc.com
- NC GGT RV (Golden Gait Trailers), 5051 Davidson Hwy, Concord, NC {Steve Wood}
28027 704-743-5280 goldengait.com
- NC Country Roads RV Center- 2609 Enterprise Rd, Lexington, NC 27295 {Steve Wood}
336-775-2100 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.rvcrcarolina.com 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
- 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)

RV Service Listings (continued)

- NC Love's Tire Service, 1217 Trollingwood Hawfields Rd., Mebane, NC 27302. 919-563-1814. www.loves.com/locations/667 (Raymond Nuzzolo)
- NC Country Camping Corner, 101 Oak Grove Rd., Kings Mountain, NC 28086 704-734-0595 www.countrycorner.com {Craig Rickenbach}
- NC Hollygrove Sales - Complete RV Service and Repair Center. 610 Old Hargrave Rd, Lexington, NC 27295 336-491-0876. ncrvrepair@yahoo.co {Steve Wood}



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 next Newsletter, please send them directly to me. 

Thank You
Dianne Wood
#113382

Carolina Rovers - Upcoming Events

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: \$42 / 30 amp; \$45 / 50 amp. - good for entire reservation.
Weekly rates are \$270 for 30 amp and \$288 for 50 amp service. They do not use the rally rate when they offer 1 night free.
Cancellation Policy:
If made more than 7 days before scheduled arrival, there is a \$25 fee.
If made less than 7 days before scheduled arrival, there is a loss of one night's rent.

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

**Convergence
September 28 - 30.**

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

2021 SKP ACRE Rally

(Update 4/07/20)
By Steve Masterson



Hi everyone. We hope all is well with you and your family during this trying time.

We are still a go for the 2021 ACRE Rally at River Vista RV Resort in beautiful Dillard, GA. The rally will begin on April 19, 2021 and end on April 25, 2021. We also scheduled a SKP Boot Camp before the rally which will start on April 16, 2021 and end on April 18, 2021 and we will have SmartWeigh at the rally to weigh your rigs.

Important Dates:

May 1, 2020 – Campground Reservations open for River Vista RV Resort.
706-746-2722 <http://rvmountainvillage.com>

January 1, 2021 – Rally Reservations Open
<https://skpacre.weebly.com>

Other Important Links:

SmartWeigh

<https://www.escapees.com/education/smartweigh/>

SKP Boot Camp – Please note, the link is for additional information on what is included in Boot Camp. Our session is not yet on the calendar.

<https://www.escapees.com/community-calendar/category/rvers-boot-camp/>

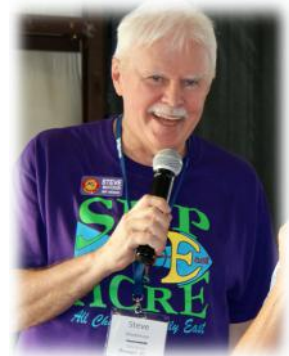
The SKP ACRE Steering Committee is itching to get out on the road and see everyone at the 2021 SKP ACRE Rally.

SKP ACRE Steering Committee

<https://skpacre.weebly.com>

skpacre@gmail.com

Steve Masterson
SKP# 95338





SKP ACRE Rally 2021

April 19 - April 25, 2021 - River Vista RV Resort

Dillard, GA. 706-746-2722

April 16 - 18, 2021 Boot Camp (immediately preceding the Rally)

www.RVMountainVillage.com

The SKP ACRE planning committee, steering committee, and rally team have selected River Vista RV Resort, Dillard, Georgia, as the rally location for 2021. The goal of the steering committee is to provide a quality rally at the lowest possible cost. There will be some catered meals and, as always a potluck dinner. The Escapees SmartWeigh team will be available to weigh your RV and we have added Boot Camp prior to SKP ACRE on April 16 - 18, 2021. Seminars will be provided including, for example, one on tire pressure. Rally Fee and camping fee to be determined.

SKP ACRE Registration process will begin on-line January 2021 at skpacre.weebly.com. You can make your campground reservations after May 1, 2020. We are in the process of creating our new website. Although it is currently under construction, we invite you to visit often, as we will be posting updates for the 2021 SKP ACRE.

Boot Camp information: <https://www.escapees.com/community-calendar/category/rvers-boot-camp/>

SmartWeigh <https://www.escapees.com/education/smartweigh/>

We invite you to join us April 19 - April 25, 2021. Feel free to contact us at SKPACRE@GMAIL.COM if you have any questions.

Steve Masterson #95338, SKP ACRE President
Dianne Wood #113382, Director of Communications and Webmaster