



# ESCAPEES - CHAPTER 29 CAROLINA ROVERS JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER



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SKP#72083



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Well, here we are again, four months later and still living in confusion. Things are opening up and appears many campgrounds are full at least on weekends. Marie and I have not been camping since lock down. I had two extraordinarily successful surgeries. This has allowed me recovery time. Once my orthopedic doctor let me start doing normal things again it turned hot. And boy did it ever turn hot. Part of doing normal things for me is working out in the workshop. I completed another wood project inside the Motor Home. Thor mounted leveling control panel 90 degrees, so left to right looked like front to back. I turned it, mounted it at an angle towards driver, improved the cup holder so it could hold a mug and added a storage bin.

I do have two incredibly good announcements to make. First, the officers have not heard of any members catching this virus. The chapter is mostly made up of high-risk individuals, so our chapter is doing well. The other good news is that the officers have decided to *keep* the Fall Rally at Cross Winds as scheduled for October 1 thru 4, preceded by a Convergence September 28 thru 30. The hosts have scheduled activities that will allow us to socialize safely. The Convergence is just a get together with nothing planned except enjoying each other's company and eating. The campground Rally rate will be good for early and late arrivals. Cross Winds does offer a weekly rate with 7<sup>th</sup> night free as well. If you are considering staying 7 nights you may want to consider this option.

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

Escapees National has put out several documents on guidelines regarding gatherings for Escapees community groups. Part of the document is an Escapees Event Liability Waiver which will be handled at registration for signature and will be kept on file by Carolina Rovers. Our rally hosts, Mark & Darcy Norton and Steve & Dianne Wood, have been planning the rally, with these guidelines in mind. I am satisfied that we will be doing everything in our power to keep everyone safe.

Spring Rally 2021 will be held at Riverbend Campground in Hiawassee, GA April 8 thru 11. I know that looks like a long way from North/South Carolina, but it is close to SKP ACRE. We hope this will encourage members to attend both the rally and SKP ACRE.

SKP ACRE (All Chapters Rally East) 2021 is being held at River Vista RV Resort, Dillard, GA. Dates for Boot Camp are April 16 to April 18 and ACRE April 19 to 25. More information and tentative schedule can be found at [www.skpacre.weebly.com](http://www.skpacre.weebly.com). Campground reservations are being taken and registration is now open by going to the mentioned website. SKP ACRE is a gathering of all chapters east of Mississippi but any Escapee can attend. One does not need to belong to a chapter just be an Escapees member.

Since we could not hold elections of new officers at Spring Rally, we will now hold them at Fall Rally if we have a Quorum of 10% of membership. If anyone would like to run for President or Secretary, please notify Mike Tasto at 919-995-2862 or



*Stay safe and we hope to see you at the Fall Rally.*

Hugs,  
Craig & Marie

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

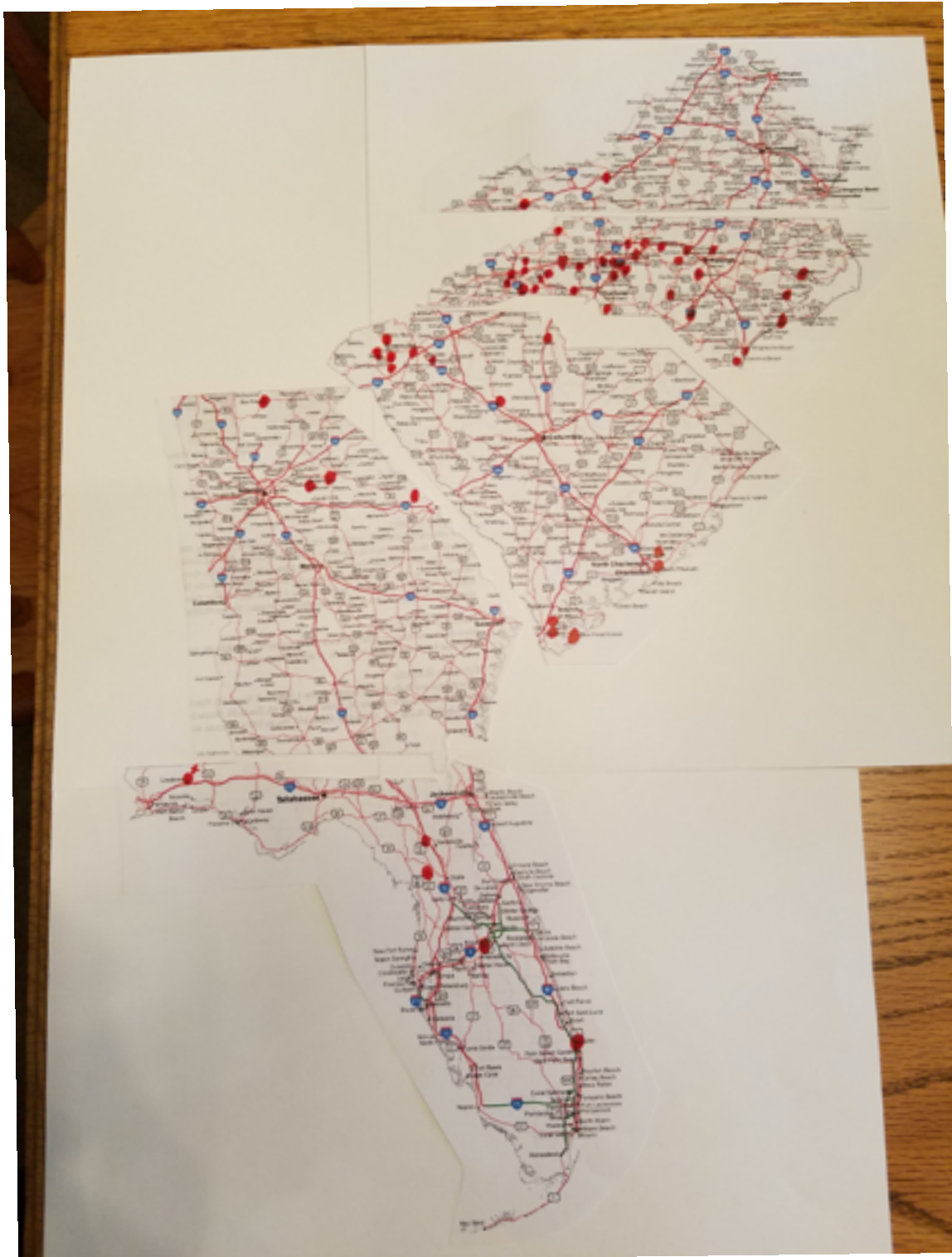
## Convergence 2020

Cross Winds Family Campground  
Linwood, NC  
September 28 - 30

# Chapter Membership Locations

As you can tell, Craig Rickenbach was bored with stay in place topped off by surgery recovery. Red dots are location of members from Dec 2019 directory with 3 new members add in 2020. Had fun, Then he had nothing to do again.

Editor's Note: This was a "fun thing to do" for Craig during his surgery recovery back in April. We'll have to think of a way to bribe him to keep this up to date. 😊



# ***TRAVELER'S CORNER***

**By Ron Johnson #104509**

Horse Shoe Bend is located in the Glen Canyon, about four miles south of Page, Arizona. The Colorado River created a roughly 270 degree horseshoe shaped bend 1,000 feet below the rim where this photo was taken.



**Horse Shoe Bend – Colorado River  
South of Page, Arizona**

# ***TRAVELER'S CORNER (CONTINUED)***

**By Ron Johnson #104509**

Goosenecks State Park, near the settlement of Medicine Hat, Utah offers views of the goosenecks, officially known as an entrenched meander. Over a distance of one and a half miles, the San Juan River flows for more than six miles through the twists of the entrenched meander on its way to Lake Powell (<https://utah.com/goosenecks-state-park>).

**The Goosenecks**



The Navajo Bridge crosses over the Colorado River at Marble Canyon in the Grand Canyon National Park, about 12 miles southwest of Page, Arizona. The bridge is 467 feet above the canyon floor. There are actually two bridges, one for vehicles and the other for walking. California condors were flying or resting under the bridge the day I visited. A California condor release program was established in 1996 at Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, Arizona, a short drive from Marble Canyon/ Navajo Bridge on U.S. 89A.



**Marble Canyon/Navajo Bridge**

# **TRAVELER'S CORNER (CONTINUED)**

**By Ron Johnson #104509**

The Four Corners area consists of the southwestern corner of Colorado, southeastern corner of Utah, northeastern corner of Arizona, and northwestern corner of New Mexico. The Four Corners area is where the boundaries of the four states meet, and are marked by the Four Corners Monument. It is the only location in the United States where four states meet.



**Four Corners**

I was within a couple hundred miles of Austin, Minnesota and detoured so I could visit the museum. I was disappointed that free samples weren't provided! The Spam Museum is dedicated to Spam and telling the history of the Hormel company, and the origin of Spam.

**The SPAM Museum –  
Austin, Minnesota**



**Ron Johnson #104509**



# ***TRAVELER'S CORNER*** (continued)

By Mark & Darcy Norton SKP# 118451



**Sea Caves from Apostle Islands Cruise boat**

**Sleeping Bear Dunes  
National Lakeshore, MI**





# ***TRAVELER'S CORNER***

**By Mark & Darcy Norton SKP# 118451**



**De Zwaan Windmill, Holland, MI**



**Sand Island Lighthouse,  
Apostle Islands, Lake  
Superior, WI**

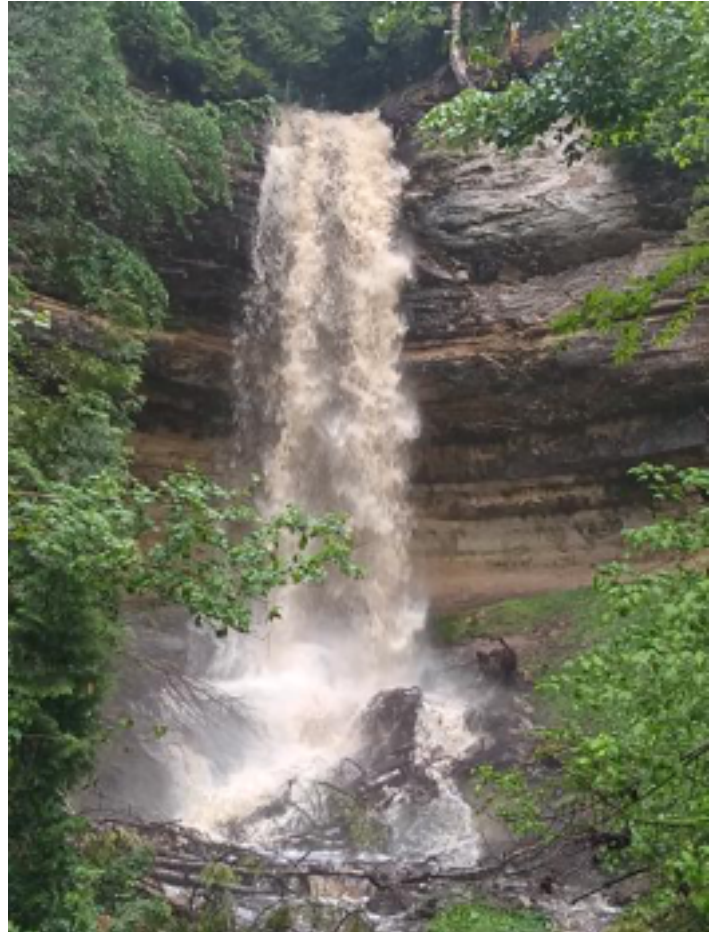


**Sea Caves Apostle Islands**

# ***TRAVELER'S CORNER*** (continued)

By Mark & Darcy Norton SKP# 118451

**Munising Falls near  
Pictured Rocks  
National**



**Miner's Castle at Pictured  
Rocks, Upper Peninsula of MI.**

# ***TRAVELER'S CORNER*** (continued)

By Mark & Darcy Norton SKP# 118451



**Approaching storms from Cruise boat**

**Mark & Darcy Norton  
SKP#118451**



# **TRAVELER'S CORNER**

**By Steve & Dianne Wood SKP #113382**

Hello all! We finally got the RV all straightened out and are on our second trip with our new Renegade. We think we FINALLY found the RV made just for us.



We cancelled our Mississippi trip due to Covid-19 but instead are going to do shorter trips this year and stay closer to home. Our other option for this year would have been to go to the North East through Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont - and areas around the Great Lakes. We have put all of those plans on hold and hopefully will feel more comfortable making them next year.



Linda and Duncan Wilkes introduced us to Santee State Park, SC, and we spent 3 wonderful days with them. What did we do while there? Well EAT of course and talk and talk and talk.. HAHA... Isn't that what Escapees do best? We had great weather and a delightful visit with the Wilkes'. As you can see our "children" - Bo and Beignet got along great!

Our second trip was at Byrd's Branch Campground in Elkin, NC. It's a small campground but it's quiet and the surrounding area, which is located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge, is beautiful. The owners are very nice and the grounds well kept. We would suggest this campground for a quiet and peaceful retreat.

We ventured out to Stone Mountain, NC, checking out the Stone Mountain Campground while there. It had been 24 years since our last trip here (before RV) and they have improved this state park quite a bit. Their campground is very nice and provide beautiful surrounding areas close to the Blue Ridge. The "good" view of the mountain from the parking lot is now obscured by 24 years of tree growth. For those of you who can make the short hike, it's well worth the view. I still have memories of our first trip here when we hiked to the top of the mountain. The view was awesome but nerve racking considering I'm afraid of heights. Once we hiked through the trees and got out onto the rock, there was an optical illusions that I was going to fall off the rock and to my untimely death at the bottom. Needless to say, my butt and that rock became "one" and Steve was very patient waiting for me to get up the nerve to actually stand up and crawl back to the safety of the tree line. I can, today, enjoy the memories I had of the view.

# **TRAVELER'S CORNER** *(continued)*

**By Steve & Dianne Wood SKP #113382**



Stone Mountain, NC



Knapps Mill, NC



What's left of the Knapps Mill Dam

A second day was spent riding the back roads and visiting Knapps Mill. This was an active grist mill up until three years ago when the dam burst and they closed the mill permanently. We agreed that this would be a perfect setting for a restaurant. Additionally we took a step back in time and visited the two churches where Steve's two sets of grandparents are buried. He was able to remember where his relatives lived and where he spent summers as a child. Amazingly, the houses are still standing including a building that was once a local store run by his maternal grandfather. He was able to talk to a gentleman who lived across the street from them and remembered them well. This was educational for me and a fond remembrance of childhood days for Steve. It was a very relaxing trip and one we hope to repeat in the future.

# **TRAVELER'S CORNER** *(continued)*

**By Steve & Dianne Wood SKP #113382**

The last day was spent riding the Blue Ridge Parkway and it was beautiful as always. We look forward to coming back during the fall to experience the beautiful color of the leaves.



View from the Blue Ridge Parkway, NC

We now look forward to attending the 2020 Fall Rally at Cross Winds Family Campground. We are hosting with Mark & Darcy Norton and are now in the planning stages. Stay tuned for details in the near future.

Hugs,

Steve & Dianne Wood  
SKP #113382



# ***Cautionary Tales***

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

### **RV AC Silencer**

Anyone who has spent time in an RV during the warm months is familiar with one drawback of RV air conditions; the noise they produce.

Several months ago I read about the RV AC Silencer developed by WhackO Products. Basic information can be found at: <https://wackoproducts.com/product/dometic-rv-a-c-silencer/>

The silencer consists of a replacement for the factory air return cover. The factory original air cover extended about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch from the ceiling compared to about 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches for the RV AC Silencer cover (shown in photo below). There are separate kits for the Dometic and Coleman air conditioners.



Using a decibel-meter app on my tablet the measured sound level with the OEM cover installed was about 62 DB. The measured sound level after installing the RV AC Silencer was about 58 DB; a 4 DB difference. For comparison, a 6 db loss is approximately halving the noise.

The kits are expensive; north of \$200 per kit. I installed the silencer kit on both air conditions in February and have been satisfied with the results.

**Ron Johnson #104509**



# FOR SALE

Pleated Shade Repair Kit

Price: **Free**

I have one remaining Pleated Shade Repair Kit, compliments of Steve and Marianne Gerner, available first come, first served. I plan to attend the Chapter 29 Fall 2020 rally, assuming we have one, and the kit will be available at that time. The kit is used to make minor repairs to interior pleated shades. This particular kit can be used to repair five shades.



**Ron Johnson #104509**





## FOR SALE (CONTINUED)

Leveling Blocks - pack of 10 (3 are cracked) - **\$10.00**



Telesteps 600FLD OSHA Compliant 6 ft. Double sided folding aluminum step ladder. Type 1; 250 lb-rated. Originally sold new for \$154.00. Like New  
Bargain Price: **\$75.00**



I will be attending the Fall Rally at Crosswinds Family Campground. If interested, you can pick up there.



Steve Wood  
SKP#113382

# 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.rvcrcarolina.com](http://www.rvcrcarolina.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))

## ***RV Service Listings (continued)***

- NC Love's Tire Service, 1217 Trollingwood Hawfields Rd., Mebane, NC 27302. 919-563-1814. [www.loves.com/locations/667](http://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](http://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](mailto: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  
Phone: 336-853-4567
- Rally Hosts:** Steve & Dianne Wood [REDACTED], Hosts  
Mark & Darcy Norton [REDACTED]  
(Co-Hosts)
- Rally Fee:** \$10 per rig
- 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  
*(You must call them directly to get the rally rate.)*

**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>

## Rally Reservations Now 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](http://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 is open now on-line at [skpacre.weebly.com](http://skpacre.weebly.com). You can make your campground reservations after May 1st, 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](mailto:SKPACRE@GMAIL.COM) if you have any questions.

Steve Masterson #95338, SKP ACRE President

Dianne Wood #113382, Director of Communications