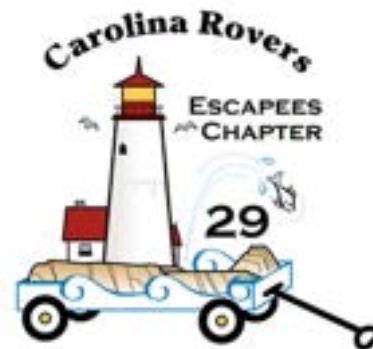




ESCAPEES - CHAPTER 29 CAROLINA ROVERS OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President, Craig Rickenbach
SKP#72083

Vice-President, Michael Tasto
SKP#127019

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

I was incredibly pleased with the turn out for the Fall 2020 Rally at Cross Winds Family Campground in Linwood, NC. We had 16 rigs (32 individuals) attend. Terri Wirtz could not camp since her 5th wheel is in the shop, but she did attend the officers meeting and the general membership meeting. Also, Dave & Helen Young joined us Saturday afternoon and stayed for the dinner that was held at a local restaurant. Included in the 16 rigs were 5 new member rigs and we are excited to welcome them to Chapter 29. Everything considered I think we did the best we could dealing with the virus situation. I would like to give a shout out to Mark & Darcy Norton and Steve & Dianne Wood for the excellent job they did in hosting the rally. Thank you, Mark, Darcy, Steve & Dianne. It was good seeing old friends and making new friends. The only thing missing was not being able to hug and be hugged which is a core activity of the Escapees.

Hopefully, this virus will be over in time for our Spring 2021 Rally at Riverbend Campground which is very close to River Vista where SKP ACRE will be held a week later. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at chapter rally, then mosey on over to SKP ACRE. More information is located below for all upcoming events.

Marie & I are trying to make up for camping time lost during the pandemic and the month of October has been full. First was the Chapter 29 Fall Rally, then five days at Stone Mountain State Park in Roaring Gap, NC and finally twelve days at Douglas Dam in Sevierville, TN.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued)

We really enjoyed Stone Mountain, NC. All sites are exceptionally large, paved, electric/water with exceptionally large flat pads for tents, picnic bench and a fire ring. If you want to go off the grid for a few days this is the place. No internet, not much cell service except to make calls and receive text, but BOY was it pleasant and quiet. When we get back from Tennessee, we will be getting a new family member, a German Shepard female puppy. We are thinking of spending a few days at Kings Mountain State Park, SC to introduce her to camping. We are naming her Gypsy in hopes she will be a good traveler.

There are several of us from Chapter 29 that will be at Myrtle Beach State Park, SC, between January 11 - February 16, 2021. All are welcome to join us and we look forward to seeing you. We will call it a **Convergence** (defined an informal social gathering of members with no agenda - simply good fun). You must make reservations on-line at www.SouthCarolinaParks.com. If you plan to join us, please let the Wood's (336-250-2100) or the Rickenbach's (803-372-2998) know of your dates so we can look for you.

Due to the Spring Rally 2020 being cancelled because of the virus, election of officers is out of cycle. Per our Standing Rules which state "In order to provide continuity, terms of office of the elected officers will be staggered by having the president and secretary elected in even-numbered years, and the vice president and treasurer in the odd-numbered years". We are without a Secretary and need someone to volunteer for a one-year term. I will volunteer to continue as President for the one-year term. We will hold elections during the Spring Rally 2021 for Vice President and Treasurer. Then in Spring Rally 2022 we will vote on full-term President and Secretary. This should put Chapter 29 back in sync with our two-year term cycle. The Chapter depends on volunteers for Officers and Rally Hosts. Without volunteers Chapter 29 will be forced to disband. The Mid-Atlantic and New York chapters disbanded recently because no one volunteered. I do not want to see this happen but may have no other choice. The jobs are not hard, nor do they take much time, and they give an opportunity to get to know chapter members better.

We also need a member rig to volunteer as a Host for the Fall Rally 2021 at Pine Ridge Campground, Roebuck, SC. We always try to pair you up with an experienced member as guide and trainer. Campground is just below Spartanburg, SC off I-26.

Hugs,

Craig Rickenbach,
President #72083



MEMBERSHIP MEETING OCTOBER 2, 2020

President Craig Rickenbach called the meeting to order at 9:33 am. Elected officers present were Craig Rickenbach, President, Mike Tasto, Vice President, Terri Wirtz , Treasurer. Appointed Officers present were Dianne Wood, Communications Director, Steve Masterson, Officer at Large and Bruce Long, Campground Scout. All officers were introduced.

Craig Rickenbach led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

We welcomed new members Christopher and Vicky Wilkes, Alan and Barb Alexander, Dennis and Valerie Driscoll and Robert and Debbie Richardson. Two guests were welcomed Mickey and Deanna Vaughn. Two new prospects were not at the meeting David and Marie Stevens; David's father passed away and they had to leave before the rally began.

All members introduced themselves. We will be having campfires tonight and tomorrow night at the pavilion and Saturday night at campsite C-4.

Up coming events

Today – Guided tour of downtown Salisbury. Meet at the back door of the old County Courthouse.

Tomorrow – Gold Hill tour.

Next spring -- Chapter 29 rally at River Bend Campground Hiawasse, Ga. (April 8-11, 2021)

ACRE at River Vista Mountain Village, Dillard, Ga. (April 19-25, 2021)

Boot Camp at River Vista Mountain Village, Dillard Ga. (April 16-18, 2021)

Next Fall - Chapter 29 rally at Pine Ridge Campground, Roebuck, Sc. (south of Spartanburg) - (September 30 – October 3, 2021)

More information will be available on all of these events. We have hosts for the spring rally but need hosts for the fall rally next year.

We have an immediate need for a new Secretary and will need a new Treasurer in the spring.

Vice President's Report – no report

Secretary's Report – In the absence of a Secretary Marie Rickenbach read the minutes from the fall rally 2019 (the spring chapter meeting was canceled due to covid)

Motion to accept the minutes as read was made and seconded and it passed.

Treasurer's Report – The beginning balance as of April 8, 2019 was \$1142.07. The Fall 2019 rally brought \$150.00 in revenue and \$162.29 in expenses. There was no revenue or expenses for the spring of 2020. The Fall 2020 rally has \$150.00 in revenue and \$139.00 in expenses. Membership dues since April 18, 2019 include \$35.00 for 2019; \$135.00 for 2020; \$70.00 for 2021; \$20.00 for 2022; \$10.00 for 2023 and \$5.00 for 2024. We have collected \$220.00 in revenue from T-shirts and there has been a \$10.00 statement adjustment. Ending balance as of October 4, 2020 was \$1,646.28. It was explained that we try not to spend money for advance dues. T-shirts are available as follows: Norman. Terri reminded us all checks must be made out to Terri Wirtz. She also explained rally fees cover food such as brauts, continental breakfasts, coffee, juice etc.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING OCTOBER 2, 2020

(CONTINUED)

We need to keep a minimum of \$500.00 in the account to avoid bank fees. Money is also kept in the account to cover pre-payment to campgrounds for things like building usage if needed. Motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Dianne – Expressed our thanks to Mark and Darcy Norton for being our hosts. We had 17 RVs registered. Some needed to cancel such as Ron Johnson and the Stevens. Dianne explained the website and offered to assist anyone needing it after the breakfast tomorrow. The website contains a list of Chapter 29 members but does not include our directory. There is a directory available to members only and if there is anything you do not want published in the directory please inform Dianne. It is suggested that everyone at least include an e-mail address for communication purposes. The website also includes past newsletters and an application for chapter 29. We will be converging at Myrtle Beach State Park between January 11 and February 16 if anyone wants to join us.

Bruce – Reminded everyone that members are responsible for making their own reservations for rallies and activities. Usually rally rates set with the campground are extended before and after the rally. Please identify yourself as a Chapter 29 member for rates and campsite locations. He expressed thanks for campground suggestions.

Steve Masterson – Recognized the veterans among us and thanked the chapter officers for their contributions. Steve recognized Jim and Linda Jackson as being members since the restart of chapter 29 as well as ambassadors for the chapter. He explained that Escapees is a family owned business (the Carr family) and provides multiple services to its members. We hold one national rally per year (except this year) and 2 regional rallies on a rotating basis every other year. We have groups, BOFs (Birds of a feather) such as DOVEs who do disaster relief. There is a group of Xcapers who are working age families many of whom travel with their children.

Steve continued by explaining SKP ACRE. SKP ACRE is held every other year and the original idea was to hold it the years Escapade was being held west of the Mississippi. All the officers are volunteers. 2021 SKP ACRE will be April 19-25 and the cost will be \$65.00 per person. This will include food, entertainment, seminars. Some vendors will be participating including SmartWeigh and their products are NOT included in the \$65.00. Boot Camp will be held April 16-18. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about all the systems in your RV. Those planning to participate in Boot Camp must contact Escapees in Livingston, TX to register.

Steve also mentioned that brand specific Facebook groups were a good source for support.

Old Business – none

New Business – We need volunteers for the fall rally 2021. We also need new officers. Elections will be held in the spring 2021 rally.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING OCTOBER 2, 2020

(CONTINUED)

Mark Norton informed us that today is the Heritage Walk in Salisbury. Those wishing to caravan will meet at the propane tanks at 11:15. Otherwise meet at the Rowan Museum (the old Courthouse) at the back door. Our docent will be Clyde

Tomorrow we will be visiting Gold Hill, NC. We will meet at the General Store between 11 and 12 o'clock depending on the time we can leave the campground. Vivian will have a power point presentation about the history of Gold Hill.

The motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 am.

Respectfully submitted Marie Rickenbach



NEW MEMBERS

We had a great Fall Rally. The weather could not have been better and the staff at the campground were wonderful! Although there were things we couldn't do because of Covid, we still had a good time. We'd like to extend a special thank you to Mark & Darcey Norton who did a fantastic job planning the Salisbury and Gold Hill tours. We have had 6 new couple who joined since our Fall Rally 2020 and would like to take this opportunity to WELCOME them to the "family" and look forward to seeing them again soon!



Chris & Vickie Wilkes



Bob & Debbie Richardson



Alan & Barb Alexander



Dennis & Valerie Driscoll

NEW MEMBERS (continued)



John & Christine Heenan



Robert & Lynda (Guthrie) Jensen

Pictures Not Available

JoAnn Doane

Bryan & Pam Beam

WELCOME!

FALL RALLY - OCT 1 - 4, 2020

Crosswinds Family Campground

Linwood, NC



FALL RALLY - OCT 1 - 4, 2020 (continued)



**FALL RALLY - OCT 1 - 4, 2020
(continued)**



**FALL RALLY - OCT 1 - 4, 2020
(continued)**



Just Chillin'

**.....AND A GOOD TIME
WAS HAD
BY ALL.....**

**THANKS TO ALL WHO
PROVIDED PHOTOS!!!**

SKYMED

Our thanks go to John Heenan, our local SkyMed representative, who graciously provided us a presentation on the benefits of SkyMed and breakfast during our Fall Rally at CrossWinds Family Campground. We appreciate his time in providing this information. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to give him a call.



We pick up where traditional travel insurance plans leave off!

SkyMed provides 18 emergency services

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954-520-4553



NO COPAYS NO DEDUCTIBLES NO CLAIM FORMS
john.heenan@skymed.com

SAILING - TAKES ME AWAY

BY Steve Masterson SKP#95338

Imagine if you will. You are just south of Savannah and it is your last travel day before getting home where you will store the RV for the winter. You get up early, thoroughly enjoy that first cup of coffee and check the weather. It is going to be a clear day with no wind and high in the 80s. Then you go outside to drain the holding tanks and get ready to leave. All goes well. You get on Interstate 95 and traffic is light. You get up to speed and set the cruise control. You are on the road for only a few miles when the 18' by 7' patio awning opens up. Fortunately, you are in the right lane and there are no obstructions. Now you feel like you are in a land yacht and one of the sails opened without warning. You check the mirrors and look for a clear space to pull over. Ok, is everyone safe? Yes!!! Now you what???? You go outside and check the awning. Incredibly the canvas is still intact and the awning arms are ok. You push the button to retract the awning and the motor in the roller tube just spins in place. Nothing! Zero! Zip! So you get the ladder out to see if you can manually roll the awning up while trucks go by shaking the motorhome side to side. Nope. It does not move. You call the motorhome manufacturer and they tell you there is no override and you have to manually roll it up. You call your hometown rv service center and they tell you the same thing. You look for a very sharp knife as you think about just cutting the awning off but first, you look to see if there is a Mobile RV Repair service in the area. At first look, you begin to get worried when the review ratings are 1.7 out of 5, 3.2 and 3.9. At this point certain words start to make their way to your lips. Then you sort the list so that the top rated ones are listed first. Top of the list, 4.9 with 43 reviews, a women led business and some very positive statements. You call and a women named Amanda answers the phone. You tell her what is happening and she transfers you to Chris who is on the road. We talk for a few minutes then he said, "Do you have an iPhone?" I said "Yes" and Chris says, "Let me FaceTime you." Really. He wants to FaceTime me. We connect and Chris asks to show him different parts of the awning. Then he says, "Yep. That awning does not have a manual override." I ask when can you be here? Chris said he was in SC and had 4 appointments and couldn't get to us until 2:00 or 3:00pm. Again, those bad words are moving closer to my lips. Then Chris proceeds to tell me exactly what to do to relieve the tension on the roller bar to make it easier to manually roll it up. He said, "On the front facing awning arm, about half way down, you need to pull down on the awning arm to get the awning to kneel." I said thank you and then we proceeded with his instructions. I pull down on the awning arm and when it kneels, the canvas releases the tension. A huge wave of relief comes over us. Then I ask Kathy, who weighs 100 pounds wet, to pull down on the awning arm and her feet leave the ground. Yes, we started to laugh. So I went back to pull the awning arm down as Kathy held on to the strap, and I pushed the button to retract the awning hoping the motor would catch and we could roll it up. AND . . . it rolled up. YEA. Next we zip tied both awning arms and got back on the road. While driving I started to think about awnings on past RVs. All our RVs prior to 2002 had manual awnings and a clamp or strap that secured the arms while traveling. DUH!!! Next stop, Home Depot.

SALING - TAKES ME AWAY 🎵 (continued)

BY Steve Masterson SKP#95338

I write this article to hopefully make you smile and laugh a little, then to hear you say, “That could happen to me!” Amanda and Chris were awesome and never gave up until they could show us how to fix the problem and get back on the road. If you are ever in the Savannah area and need repairs, please call Amanda and Chris. Here is their contact information.

Certified RV Mobile Service
Wentworth, GA
912-572-2902
Tell them we said “Hi”.

SKP Air Hugs
Steve Masterson



Steve & Kathy (Werth) Masterson
President, SKP ACRE
SKP#95338

TRAVELER'S CORNER

By Ron Johnson #104509

Lake Apopka North Shore, Orange County, Florida

Over the years Lake Apopka North Shore became polluted by fertilizer and garbage and came close to becoming a dead lake. For the past few decades, people have been working to resuscitate the lake. Now, there are 362 species of birds here as well as alligators, bobcats, otters, and other wildlife. That wildlife is part of the appeal of a new 11-mile driving trail along the 20,000-acre north shore of Lake Apopka (<https://www.sjrwmd.com/lands/recreation/lake-apopka/>).

Lake Apopka- One Huge 'Gater



Multi-Use Trail around Lake Apopka



TRAVELER'S CORNER *(continued)*

By Ron Johnson #104509



Ron Johnson
#104509

TRAVELER'S CORNER

By Terri Wirtz #93910

Midwest Summer Trip 2020

Two years ago, my youngest sister Laureen and I had planned a trip out west to Wyoming and Montana, she in her new Gulf Stream Vintage trailer and me in my Flagstaff fifth wheel, with our four cats. Then because of health issues, we were not able to make the trip that year or the next. So, it was put on the schedule for this year. Then COVID-19 hit. The Longmire Festival in Buffalo WY was cancelled and many campgrounds were not open or opened late in the season.

Instead, on June 26, I took off for a family-friends trip in the Midwest. As in the past, I selected campgrounds through Passport America, Corps of Engineers (COE) guide, Escapees, and personal history. My first stop was Tom Johnson's Camping World campground in Marion NC. The main campground has full hookups but only 50-amp so I asked for a site in the grassy, rally area with both 30 and 50 hookups, water and sewer. Much nicer especially since there were very few campers there.

My second night, I stayed at a Passport America park called Walnut Meadow RV Park in Berea KY. Full hook-ups (sewer not needed), new picnic tables, some shade (not needed), and grass for the cats to munch on, all for \$20 cash.

After Mass in the morning, another five-hour drive got me to Cicero IN at the White River campground, a Hamilton county park, where I have stayed many times while visiting friends in nearby Noblesville. This is a very nice campground next to the White River. All sites are back-in and most have some kind of tree shade. Some sites have full hookup but I always get the cheaper E/W only for \$25 a night. No WiFi and no cable but good TV antenna service from Indianapolis.

I spent the evening and next day with my friends, going to a delightful restaurant, Ford's Garage, for dinner where we could eat outside and admire the antique cars and cleverly arranged auto-related parts outside and inside.

On Tuesday, I drove 8 hours to Iowa, a very long day. I had made reservations for the COE campground, West Overlook, near Iowa City, in February because this is a very popular campground and often sites are not available in the summer weekends. Even then, I was unable to get any site near the Coralville Lake for a whole week as I have in past years. Since West Overlook has only electric sites, I had to dump tanks and fill up with fresh water before entering the campground. With America the Beautiful pass, each night was only \$10.

TRAVELER'S CORNER *(continued)*

By Terri Wirtz #93910

My reservations started on July 1. I arrived on June 30. Because of COVID-19, the volunteer hosts at the gatehouse were not allowed to take any payments for sites and all reservations had to be done online. They could tell me that site 10 for which I had reservations for the next 8 days was open so I could park there and then go online. There is no WiFi so I went to my sister's house 10 minutes away after I was set up to pay for my site. This is a very shady area. All sites are mostly level and gravel with sturdy picnic tables and fire rings, widely spaced. Pets are allowed on leashes or ropes.

During the time I was here, I spent much time with two of my sisters, Laureen and Jean. Wearing our masks, we got our hair cut and our nails done, had a campfire with pizza and s'mores with nieces, their families, and an aunt and uncle, shopped at Stringtown near Kalona, enjoyed 4th of July fireworks, and ate pork tenderloin sandwiches at Shakespeare's and the Hilltop Bar & Grill. Eating tenderloin sandwiches is a must in Iowa. I also replaced the trailer battery because mine had died and my sister could get me a discount through the store where she worked.

On July 9, Julie, Mandy, and I moved to Badgerland campground in Stoughton WI, near Madison for two nights. Laureen with her trailer and 2 cats arrived soon after. We were met by one of the owners, wearing his mask, and were guided to our shady, very grassy W/E sites near each other. We paid \$49 per night. A state park in the same area would have been cheaper per night except that an annual state pass is required and that would have added to the price. This campground has many seasonal trailers but also short-termers in trailers and tents. It was very full but did not feel crowded because of the spacious sites. There is also a small swimming pond, a bar (it is Wisconsin after all), and weekend music.

We had wanted to tour the state capitol building but because of COVID-19, it was closed. Instead we went to the small, free Henry Vilas Zoo where only outdoor areas were open and sanitary stations and directional signs were everywhere. We had lunch at a very COVID responsible restaurant called Everly's where I tried the asparagus gnocchi. Not great.

On Saturday, we traveled up to Fond du Lac. Because the county fair was to begin the following week, the in-town fairgrounds was closed to campers so we stayed at the Columbia Park, also a county campground, for \$25 per night plus \$5 online reservation fee. It is a small park with very grassy, electric only, shady and open sites, a short walk from Lake Winnebago. A fishing tournament was being held that weekend so we heard the starting guns at 6 and 7 am. Most of Joe's family came out to the campground so we could visit for a couple hours without unduly endangering anyone. On Sunday evening, we went for brats at the tournament winners' tents, but did not stay because it was crowded and no one was wearing masks. We had also encountered crowding at the nearby lake-side restaurant the night before, so we ate at our own sites. At a nearby gas station, we found a stand-alone phone booth. We did not know they even existed anywhere.

TRAVELER'S CORNER *(continued)*

By Terri Wirtz #93910

Our next stop was in Door County at Beantown Campground in Baileys Harbor. This is a Passport America park where one night is half price. We paid \$135 for 3 nights. Here we had side by side pull-through sites, grassy with trees, and full hookups with cable and WiFi. The campground was nearly full with many seasonal and short-term sites. It was only a couple miles from downtown Baileys Harbor and the harbor itself. Our first day there was rather rainy. We found the library to buy some books, walked around the harbor, looking at the murals, stopped for lunch at the Harbor Fish Market, went to Cana Island by tractor-pulled wagon across the shallow water to see the lighthouse (not open because of COVID-19) & museum, then drove up to the point of Door County to watch the ferry to Washington Island. On the way back we drove through Peninsula State Park campground and were very glad we had not been able to get a site there as it was extremely shaded and dark on a dreary day.

The next morning, we drove across the peninsula to Egg Harbor, walked around the harbor, bought a curb-side, take-out lunch, and then head back to catch our boat tour of Baileys Harbor lighthouses. We shared the boat with two couples, one child, and the two boat operators, all not wearing our masks. The boat was a small former Chicago river taxi.

Friday night we stayed at Great Northern campground, Gleason WI which feels pretty much out in the boonies, yet is only 20 minutes past cornfields and farms from Antigo. It was very full for the weekend with families who were very friendly and helpful in getting our trailers backed in between rows of pine trees. While kids were everywhere and campfires blazed, by 11 pm all was very quiet. We had W/E only, no cable, no WiFi, and no phone service for \$39 per night.

Laureen had misjudged how empty her gas tank was and did not stop to get gas coming through Antigo. She was afraid she could not make it to any nearby station so we took our portable tanks and my truck back to town for gas and pizza. We also checked out St Wenceslaus church in Deerbrook for Sunday Mass. The church is at a crossroad near Antigo, sharing the corner with a house and a bar. So typical Wisconsin. Because it was a late Mass and we had a long drive to Ashland on Sunday, we decide to drive to Rhinelander for Saturday night Mass. Laureen programmed her GPS but instead of the "quick route" (1/2 hour), it took us on an "alternate route" which meant we spent an hour driving through forests. There sure are a lot of trees in northern Wisconsin. We did get there in time for Mass and also to spend some time outside the closed library to utilize their WiFi.

Our next campground was Frontier Bar and Campground on US Highway 2, near Saxon with W/E and free WiFi for \$31 per night. The easiest way to find it is to watch for the huge Mobil sign in the midst of the forest. All gas, campground fees, and grill items are paid for in the bar. Where nobody wore masks and I was teased because I wasn't drinking my beer right away. But the burgers and cheese curds were delicious and the campground is very quiet. The cats were all thrilled that we could take them on walks without interference from people or dogs.

TRAVELER'S CORNER *(continued)*

By Terri Wirtz #93910

I was able to get online and buy tickets for the next afternoon's boat tour of Apostle Islands lighthouses and shipwrecks

We were almost an hour away from Bayfield where the Apostle Island cruises started. But it was a beautiful day and while there were many people on board, all were required to wear masks and keep their distance. We saw a couple lighthouses and a sunken ship.

On the way back to the campground, we stopped in Ashland to walk around all the town murals, get gas, and a selection from Dairy Queen.

The next day was very rainy so we vegged in our respective homes, then took a late afternoon drive to the Iron County beach so Laureen could put her feet in Lake Superior. We conjectured long about where the money came from to build this harbor/beach/marina because we could not see that Iron County is a very prosperous area, tucked up along the north edge of Wisconsin. According to a plaque, the harbor was expanded in 2005-2006 as part of a Corps of Engineers project and environmental infrastructure grant. A new campground behind the marina is being built and there is a beautiful handicapped-accessible kayak/canoe launch.

Baxter MN was our next stop where we spent the evening at the home of friends. They graciously allowed us to "camp" in their driveway. Our last night on the road back to Iowa was River View campground in Owatonna MN where we got two Passport America sites in a campground that was expected to be full for the weekend for their Christmas in July event. Many of their trees were dying (I suspect ash borers) and someone cleverly sculpted the cut trunks. We had only water and electric hookups near the entrance but the sites were level, spacious, had a view of the river, and were only \$15 each for the one night.

I was having problems with my big slideout coming in so I had made an appointment for service not far from the West Overlook campground for Saturday July 25. It needed to be in quarantine for 4 days before any inspection or work.

We were lucky to be able to reserve two sites (30 and 32) next to each other at the West Overlook COE campground for Friday night. Laureen moved her cats and stuff from her trailer to her home; then I moved stuff from my trailer to hers as much as I might need for a couple weeks. While I took my trailer for repair on Saturday morning, Laureen took her trailer home. Because she does not have 30-amp hookup at her house for AC, my cats and I spent Saturday night in her guest room. Then on Sunday after church, she took her trailer back to another site (17) at West Overlook and I took the cats out to move in there. We were juggling reservations between her and me and the different sites because West Overlook restricts to no more than 14 days total reservations in any 30-day period. We also had to work around crowded weekends. Fortunately, we both have America the Beautiful passes to cover the \$10 per night campground fee.

TRAVELER'S CORNER (continued)

By Terri Wirtz #93910

The repair techs were not able to fix the slideout problem immediately so I decided to take the trailer back to NC for further inspection and service. I had to park it in an empty site next to Lauren's trailer and move all my stuff back to my trailer and then move my trailer to another site (7) for a few days. Meanwhile, Julie developed what the vet called stress colitis that caused blood in her poop. She was given medication for several days and it appeared to clear it up. Following that, Mandy stopped eating and drinking on Wednesday, the day before I picked up the 5th wheel. She was not doing well so I took her to the emergency vet who, in consultation with Mandy's NC vet, determined that there was nothing to help her and they recommended putting her down. She had been losing weight, though eating and drinking voraciously for over 2 years with the tentative diagnosis of either lymphoma or intestinal bowel distress. I made the hard decision and came back to the trailer that day without her, August 8.



Mandy



Julie and Mandy

On August 10, Julie and I left West Overlook, heading to another COE campground, Forrest Bo Woods, in Shelbyville IL. I got off the interstate one exit too far. I then zigzagged on empty unmarked county roads through corn, soybean, and wind turbine farms until I reached the highway to Sullivan, the nearest town to the campground. I had no reservation but was able to get site 127, a pull through (E only) with a partial view of the lake through the trees. The weather was nice when we arrived but then turned very stormy. I put Julie in her carrier and we went into the nearby bath house which had 4 rooms, each with shower and toilet.

A derecho had passed just north of me in Iowa and northern Illinois. I later heard from my sisters just how bad it was in the Iowa City – Cedar Rapids area and the COE campground I had just left. I was very lucky to have left when I did.

TRAVELER'S CORNER *(continued)*

By Terri Wirtz #93910

My next overnight stop was Silver Point TN to see if I could get a site at the COE, Floating Mill Park. There was no one at the gate but a sign gave an 800 number to register. I left a message. Meanwhile, a man walked up to my truck and said he was a volunteer in the park, that the camp hosts were not there, and that I needed a reservation to stay. He wore no mask. After a while, he directed me up the hill to the dump station/rest room area to wait for someone to phone me back. When no one did after an hour, he showed me to site 20, a pull through with full hookup and a great view of the lake. Very few campers there.

No one called me that night and when I finally reached someone late the next morning, I was told the COE could not make reservations for previous nights and that I needed to call the campground directly. When I did that, I was told that they could not register me for a night already stayed so I ended up not paying at all. A savings of \$10.

After an hour on I-40, I noticed something sticking out from under my trailer on the passenger side. Not far was a truck parking area. I pulled in and found that the rear tire had blown and ripped off part of the fender on the trailer. I contacted my insurance company for road assistance. Where I had parked was a low grassy area with shade, so I pulled Julie in her carrier from the truck and got out my lawn chair and we waited for the service to come to replace the blown tire with my spare. The metal strap from the fender that had been sticking out was zip tied to the propane pipe that ran along behind the tires.

I found a tire store in Knoxville, an hour down the road, where they put on a new tire and put my spare back on the trailer. My plans had been to visit my sister-in-law in Shelby NC. Instead I decided to find a place in Ashville NC for the night and then head home.

By the time I reached Ashville, it was almost 7 pm. Leaving the Interstate, I went several miles in an industrial area to find the Passport America park listed in my directory. However, the GPS had sent me in the wrong direction. Turning around in a gas station and getting better directions, I finally found the campground. There was no office and a man at one site said there was nothing available for the night. I then drove to Bear Creek RV Park only to find that there were only two sites with 50-amp service available. By then it was getting dark and starting to rain. I decide to head to Marion NC and Tom Johnson's rally area.

I arrived about 9 pm, hooked up electric only, and went to bed. The next morning, I went to register at the office and have breakfast at the café. I was told that, for some unknown reason, TJ/CW owed me money so there was no charge for my night's stay. I arrived home around 3 pm on August 13, let Julie out, unhitched while she wandered around crying in the yard. We were both undone by the whole trip.

Trip costs for 48 days: campgrounds \$691.63 (average \$14.41/night) gas \$1164.10

TRAVELER'S CORNER (continued)

By Terri Wirtz #93910



Walnut Meadow RV Park, Berea KY



White River Campground, Cicero IN



Ford's Garage, Noblesville IN



TRAVELER'S CORNER (continued)

By Terri Wirtz #93910



*Badgerland campground,
Stoughton WI*

*West Overlook COE
campground, North Liberty IA
site 10 and cats Mandy and
Julie*



Henry Vilas Zoo, Madison WI



TRAVELER'S CORNER (continued)

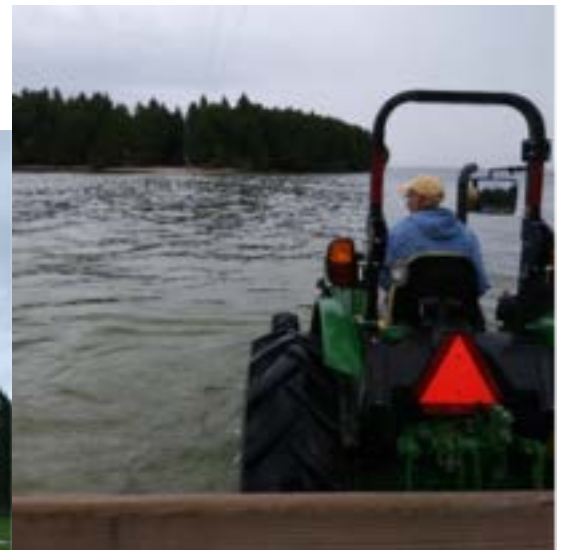
By Terri Wirtz #93910



*Columbia Park, Fond du Lac County, Malone WI,
and Lake Winnebago*



*Harbor Fish Market restaurant,
Baileys Harbor WI*



*Cana Island Lighthouse,
Baileys Harbor W*

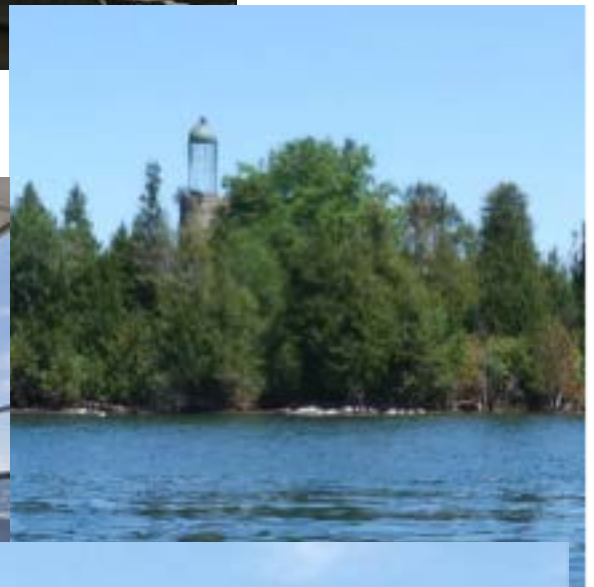


TRAVELER'S CORNER (continued)

By Terri Wirtz #93910



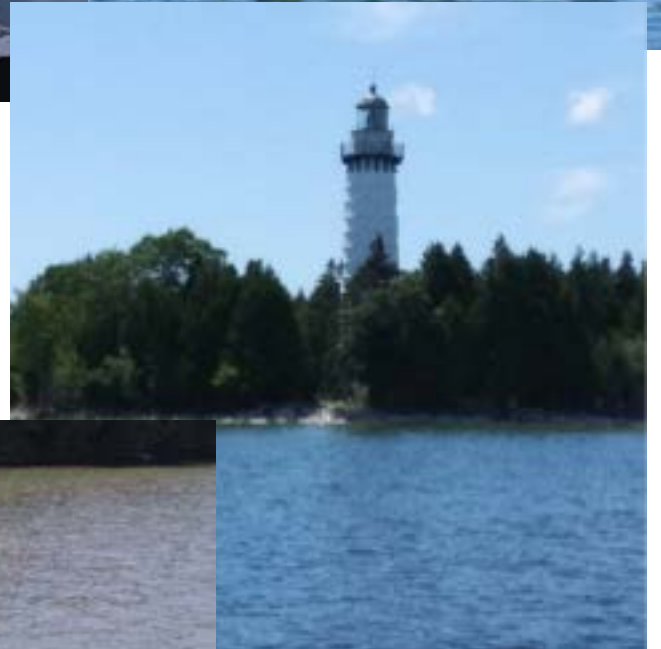
Egg Harbor, Door County, WI



*Baileys Harbor Lighthouse
tour on a Chicago River taxi*



*Apostle Islands lighthouse and
shipwrecks cruise, Bayfield WI (Lake Superior)*



TRAVELER'S CORNER *(continued)*

By Terri Wirtz #93910



*Apostle Islands
lighthouse and
shipwrecks cruise,*



Editor's Note:

Terri sent me quite a few pictures, and since I couldn't decide which to include, I will use some this newsletter and add more in our January newsletter. So....**Stay Tuned** for more fun and beautiful pictures from Terri in January.

Terri Wirtz
SKP #93910



DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN ????

By Steve Wood #113382



1966 Ford Ranch Wagon with Teardrop Trailer



1959 Chevrolet Impala Hardtop with Shasta Travel Trailer



1968 Chevrolet El Camino with Shasta Travel Trailer



Pretty Pink Pair 1959 Cadillac Sixty with Shasta Trailer



1962 Ford Corvair with Canyon Travel Trailer



1935 Pontiac with Turquoise Canned Ham

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN ??? (Continued)

By Steve Wood #113382



1938 Pierce Arrow with Travelodge



1947 Custom Buick Sedanette with Matching Trailer



1949 Studebaker Pickup with Purple Trailer to Match



1951 Hudson Commodore with matching Trailer



1955 Ford Customline Wagon with Shasta Trailer



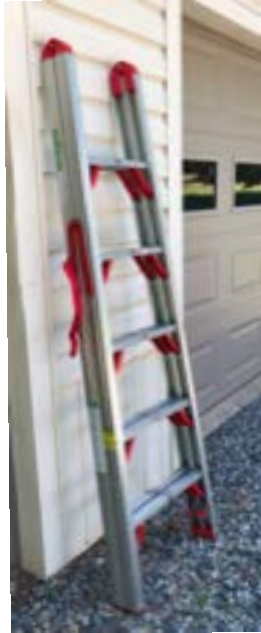
1952 Buick Riviera hardtop with Matching Trailer

Steve Wood
SKP#113382



FOR SALE

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**



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 Attn: Matt Gorges
- FL Coach Crafters, Inc., 27530 County Road 561, Tavares, FL (Raymond Nuzzolo)
32778. 352-742-8111; Service Manager - Victor Koester;
victor@coachcrafters.com
- 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
- GA Certified RV Mobile Service, Wentworth, GA (Steve Masterson)
912-572-2902
- 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

RV Service Listings (continued)

- NC Truck Fleet Painting (for body work), 5301 Stowe Lane, Charlotte, NC 28262 704-455-5315 truckfleetpainting.com {Steve Wood}
- NC Snider Fleet Solutions (tire service), 300 E. Meadowview Rd., Greensboro, NC 27406 336-275-7188
(Note: this is a national company and more locations can be found by visiting sniderfleet.com) {Steve Wood}
- 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

2021 Spring Rally - Chapter 29

When: April 8 - 11, 2021

Where: Riverbend Campground
2626 Streak Hill Road
Hiawassee, GA 30546



Rally Hosts: Craig & Marie Rickenbach
Steve & Dianne Wood

Rally Fee: TBD

Campground Fee: \$40 / night - good for entire reservation.
Cancellation Policy: 2 week before with loss of deposit of one night.

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

Phone: (706) 896-1415
<https://www.riverbendcamping.com>

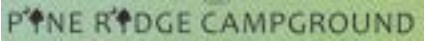
WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS, PLEASE MENTION THAT YOU ARE WITH CAROLINA ROVERS TO GET RALLY RATE AND SITE SET ASIDE.

Convergence
April 5 - 7, 2021

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

Carolina Rovers - Upcoming Events

2021 Fall Rally - Chapter 29

- When:** September 30 - October 3, 2021
- Where:** Pine Ridge Campground
199 Pineridge Campground Rd.
Roebuck, SC 29376
- 
- Rally Hosts:** TBD
- Rally Fee:** TBD
- Campground Fee:** Daily Rate - \$41.96 (includes taxes) - good for entire reservation. Deposit: \$41.96 (one night's rate)
Weekly rates \$252.00 + tax
Cancellation Policy:
Daily/Weekly guests who cancel at least 14 days before check-in will get back 100% of the amount they've paid. For cancellations between 7 and 14 days before check-in, guests will get back 50% of the amount they've paid. Cancellations under one week from check-in will receive 10% of the amount they've paid.
- Name of Group** Carolina Rovers, Escapees Chapter 29
When Making Reservation:
- Phone / Web:** (864) 576-0302
<https://www.pineridgecampground.com>

WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS, PLEASE MENTION THAT YOU ARE WITH CAROLINA ROVERS TO GET RALLY RATE AND SITE SET ASIDE.

**Convergence
September 27 - 29, 2021**

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

2021 SKP ACRE Rally

(Update 10/22/20)
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 January 31, 2021

(Registration has been delayed until January 31 in order to allow more time to assess the Covid 19 requirements.)

<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>

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 is \$65 per person. River Vista RV Resort rates range from \$41 - \$56 per night minus a rally discount of 15% to 25% based on the total number of RVs. The discount will be calculated and added to reservations 20 days before the rally..

SKP ACRE Registration process will open January 31, 2021, on-line at skpacre.weebly.com. Registration has been delayed until January 31 in order to allow more time to assess the Covid 19 requirements.

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 if you have any questions.

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