



**ESCAPEES - CHAPTER 29
CAROLINA ROVERS
APRIL 2021
NEWSLETTER**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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SKP#72083**

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Coordinator - Steve Wood
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**Newsletter Editor, Dianne Wood
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I would like to begin this message with a shout out to Steve Masterson who reminded the officers that this spring 2021 is the 10th anniversary of the restart of Chapter 29. Since covid restrictions caused the cancelation of the Spring 2021 rally, we are planning a Big Anniversary Party at the Fall Rally so make your reservations now.

Hope everyone is staying safe. States are slowly lifting restrictions on travel and gatherings so please be safe in your summer travel plans. My expectation is that the virus will be contained so that our Fall Rally will proceed as scheduled. I am tired of needing to cancel Rallies. I have heard or seen posts on Facebook that many of our members have already had their shots.

As some of you know, Marie and I have ventured into the puppy world. A couple we know at church own the mother & father, and she is full blood German Shepard. We named her Gypsy in hopes she travels well which so far, the name fits. We spent five weeks in Myrtle Beach, and she slept in her kennel the whole way both directions. She also travels well in the back of the Equinox. The Myrtle Beach trip was a challenge since Gypsy was only five months old (35 lbs.). We had the worst weather with rain and cold, of any of our trips and Marie had a very sore knee which was aggravated when Gypsy pulled her into the picnic bench seat. I have since, temporarily, reconfigured the inside of

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

the MH to make life easier for all three of us. We really did have a good time mainly due to the visits with our friends who live in Pawleys Island and camping with Dianne & Steve Wood. There was a fenced dog park near by that we took the dogs to run off energy. Things are looking up. We will be camping toward the end of April so we can evaluate the new arrangements in the MH.

Gypsy is now 7 months old (50 some lbs.) and still every bit a puppy. She loves shoelaces, shoes, hands and arms. We are told this is normal, that she will grow out of this stage. I am very anxiously awaiting that moment. We are going to Puppy School in hopes we all learn something. We are looking forward to our next camping trip and more experimenting both in and out of the MH. We bought a doghouse (cheaper than buying the material) this Friday, our younger son came over to help unload from truck and move to location. We wondered if it would be good or a bad investment. Marie could not find her on Sunday afternoon just looking out sunroom windows. When she opened the door, Gypsy came out from inside the doghouse.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Fall Rally and anniversary party to be held at Pine Ridge Campground, Roebuck, SC. It is south of Spartanburg SC off Interstate 26. Marie and I highly recommend attendees planning a trip to Greenville, SC which is a 42-minute drive (carpooling will help). Street parking is at a premium but there are a couple of parking garages. They have a wonderful Downtown area with all types of shopping. The Downtown is very pet friendly with most stores having water buckets outside and some even have dog treats too. A number of non-food establishments even allow dogs inside.

Looking forward to getting back to Real HUGS,

Craig

Craig Rickenbach,
President #72083



TRAVELER'S CORNER

On The Road Again

by Mac & Renae Shea SKP #78019

The Sheas are on the road again. So far more for work than sight seeing. In February we spent 3 weeks in Vienna Ga. at Dooley campground and we are presently at Camp Glisson in Dahlonaga, Ga. pulling up flooring in cabins that were flooded in last week's rain. We will do one more Nomads project in May in Greenville, Tn. Waiting for our oldest granddaughter to set a date for her wedding this summer, so the rest of our plans are up in the air. Ya'll stay safe, hope to see you along the road



Mac & Renae Shea
SKP# 78019



TRAVELER'S CORNER

WINTER RVING

Part 2 by Dianne Wood #113382

It's now April and we survived Winter RVing!!! This was accomplished by RVing with Craig & Marie Rickenbach who are seasoned at winter camping and a lot of luck. Wouldn't you know that this past January was deemed the wettest January in 10 years at Myrtle Beach. The good news is that we did have some pretty weather and our pipes didn't freeze.

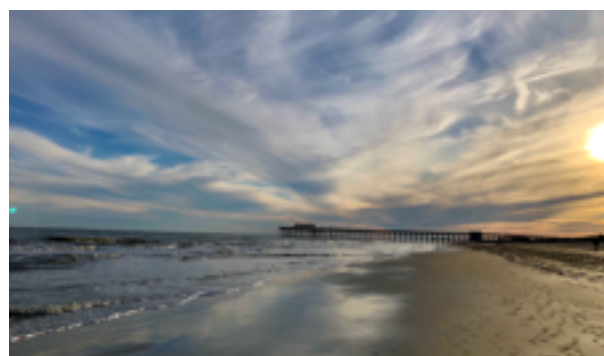
We found quite a few restaurants open for this time of year but had to be diligent in checking first to make sure which days of the weeks they were closed. Our biggest challenge was to find a good breakfast place that was actually open more than 3 days a week. Needless to say, we made good use of all the food we carried and Steve cooked some wonderful meals.

We actually lucked out on streaming TV at night. Even when our hotspot speed was throttled down, we were still able to stream movies. If you're really into Westerns, there was one station with REALLY OLD westerns that we could view.

With all of the rain, we didn't get a chance to sit outside and enjoy campfires so no worry about buying wood. Our site was very pretty and I'd like to try it again in the summer. Walking the beach with our dog was NOT going to happen as he thought the sand pipers were there for his enjoyment. Running after him attached to the leash was not my idea of enjoying the beach. Even though he (Bo) didn't get to walk on the beach with me he was always ready to go riding.



I did have a lot of nice walks without the dog however and quickly remembered why I love the beach so much. We were lucky enough to have beautiful weather the night of the full moon. It was gorgeous. I, however, failed to take my 35mm camera so wasn't able to get any good pictures of it.



The accommodations at Myrtle Beach State Park were great and I actually used the campground showers once for a nice long hot shower - which I understand are not always hot so my timing was good.

WINTER RVING (continued) **Part 2 by Dianne Wood #113382**

We were able to visit Steve's brother and sister-in-law several times and ate out quite a few times with the Rickenbachs. We enjoyed one night out with a new chapter couple, Larry & Nelli Jackson, who were there for a couple of nights. They were delightful and I know you'll enjoy meeting them at the next rally. The six of us went out for one evening and had a great time.



We also went out for crab legs with the Rickenbachs at Captain George's which is always a treat and the company was awesome!.

RVing in close quarters with Steve and an 80-lb dog was great. There was a huge dog park about a mile away and we took Gypsy (Rickenbach) and Bo (Wood) for frequent visits. Gypsy was timid at first being a puppy but our "wild man" golden-doodle quickly got her running and playing.

All in all, winter RVing wasn't bad at all. We kicked back and enjoyed each other's company and de-stressed from the pandemic. In fact, we've made reservations again for next year in hopes that we'll have better weather - and if not, oh well.....we'll still enjoy the adventure.

Steve & Dianne Wood
SKP#113382



TRAVELER'S CORNER

ONE RAINY DAY IN FEBRUARY

by Marie Rickenbach #72083

Go camping, it will be fun they said. Most of the time this is true but now and then there is a day that makes one question that statement. I had such a day in mid-February. It did not start out bad. Craig and I decided to go out for breakfast. The restaurant we chose served a buffet breakfast and this was the third time within two weeks we tried to have breakfast there. The first time was on a Monday and it was closed. OK another restaurant we went to was closed Mondays, so we thought maybe it was a local thing in an area that caters to a lot of weekend tourists. Then we tried eating there on a Friday and that was when we discovered the buffet restaurant was only open Saturday and Sunday. It was now Saturday and we were successful on the third attempt. The breakfast was OK but nothing great.

It was raining hard and it was cold. Therefore, we decided that the second thing on our agenda, a trip to the dog park with Gypsy was probably not a good idea. We returned to the RV. Due to the rain our campsite was flooded, and there were puddles everywhere. We had joked about having our own private lake at the campsite.

Craig dumped the black and gray water tanks because we planned to take showers that evening and while he was doing that, he noticed the propane gauge read empty. Not a good thing for heating water for showers or staying warm for the remainder of our trip.

About midafternoon we decided to go to Walmart and purchase a ceramic heater so we could stay warm. I took Gypsy out for a walk before we left. She did her business and I opened the back hatch of the Equinox in preparation to put her inside. In her excitement, Gypsy suddenly jerked the leash she apparently decided that I should go swimming in our private lake. I was soaked to the skin, cold, and muddy. Craig got Gypsy into the RV and came back to help me out of our lake. A half hour or so later with clean dry clothes and different coat we started out to Walmart to get the heater.

We got the heater and went to an early bird special for dinner. I thought things were improving, silly me.

To conserve propane, we had decided to use the bathhouse at the campground. Did I mention it was cold and rainy? I got to the bathhouse and turned on the hot water. I waited. no hot water. I waited awhile longer, still NO hot water. Although there was some heat in the bathhouse it was vented to the outside and the floor was freezing cold. On a positive note, I knew there was no problem with feeling in my feet, they were freezing. but I was beginning to question if I could manage to wash my hair in water this cold. Finally, a trickle of warm water and a minute or two later I had water warm enough to shower.

TRAVELER'S CORNER
ONE RAINY DAY IN FEBRUARY *(continued)*
by Marie Rickenbach #72083

I returned to the RV and checked my phone. I texted that I was glad this day of swimming in the rain and shivering in the shower was almost over. The only thing left that I needed to do was take Gypsy out one last time before going to sleep. I have no idea why I thought that would be uneventful. I took Gypsy out and she was a good puppy and in the cold rain she did her business quickly. She got back in the kennel in the RV and I went to dispose of the poop bag. As I opened the dumpster something brushed my arm and jumped out of the dumpster scaring the living daylights out of me. I threw the poop bag in the dumpster and turned around shining the flashlight beam on a huge raccoon. I could see his ring tail and his dark beady eyes stared back at me. I do not know which one of us moved faster. I was glad that day was finally over.

Fortunately, most days are not like this one and we have made our reservations for the same campground for next year.

Craig & Marie Rickenbach
SKP# 72083



TRAVELER'S CORNER

Two Shots From Moderna Vaccine And We Were Off To Florida

by John Heenan SKP#164616

We took off two weeks after getting our second shot to warm up after a year of isolation to “get out of the house” see our kids in Florida and the grandkids.

First stop was an overnight in Brunswick which is our half-way point coming from Statesville NC. We found a great county park there for \$40 a night. Lots of trees, marina, hiking and close to everything including I-95 in a pull thru.

Spent a day exploring and visited Saint Simons Island. Wow Loved that place. Beautiful parks right on the water but I would bet you need big bucks to live there on the water.



TRAVELER'S CORNER *(continued)*

Two Shots From Moderna Vaccine And We Were Off To Florida *(continued)*

Then off to Ft Lauderdale to see our son Paul and his wife Julie. I had some business meetings with the cruise ship folks. The park has plenty of room between sites and our pull-thru site at the Broward County park on the west side of town. CB Smith Park was \$40 a night but no facilities were open due to Covid.



After 5 days we were off to (our favorite during our 2 week trip) the Florida Grande Class A Motorcoach Resort in Webster Florida. Most sites are owned but you can also rent sites. We paid \$375 for 7 days. If you like lots of room a beautiful pool ++ and wide-open space and country style living you would love this park.

There also is a new park just down the road for any type of RV which had a grand opening special ½ price for a month \$575.

Now that we had finally warmed our bones up, we headed back...A great break!

John & Christine Heenan
2001.5 Discovery 37U 330 hp
SKP# 164616



TRAVELER'S CORNER

By Barbara Jensen SKP# 147839

Yellowstone National Park

This is a tour in pictures of Yellowstone National Park. They aren't labeled as to what they are because they're rather self-explanatory. We spent a week at Buffalo Bill State Park outside Cody, Wyoming to check out Yellowstone from the east gate; then 5 days at Livingston, Montana to explore Yellowstone from the north gate; then a week at Henry's Lake State Park near Island Park, Idaho to approach Yellowstone from the west gate.

We arrived at Buffalo Bill State Park east of Yellowstone on August 20, 2020. There was so much haze that first week from the forest fires all over the west. We were there for a week, then around to Livingston, MT north of Yellowstone for the end of August, then a week at Henry's Lake State Park in Idaho near the west gate of Yellowstone for a week until September 8.



TRAVELER'S CORNER *(continued)*

By Barbara Jensen SKP# 147839

Yellowstone National Park



TRAVELER'S CORNER *(continued)*

By Barbara Jensen SKP# 147839

Yellowstone National Park



**Robert Barbi &
Barbara Jensen
SKP#147839**

TRAVELER'S CORNER

By Jimmie Crawford #110674

Editor's Note: The following are pictures taken from posts by Jimmie taken during his travels.

Abandoned church across the Rio Grand river in Mexico at the La Linda International Bridge.

"From my campsite at Stillwell Ranch Store & RV Park, I drove down FM2627 to the Rio Grande River and the La Linda International Bridge. The bridge was barricaded to prevent anyone from crossing into Mexico. Across the river was an abandoned town and church and mining operation. I would have loved to go over and get closer photos of the church.



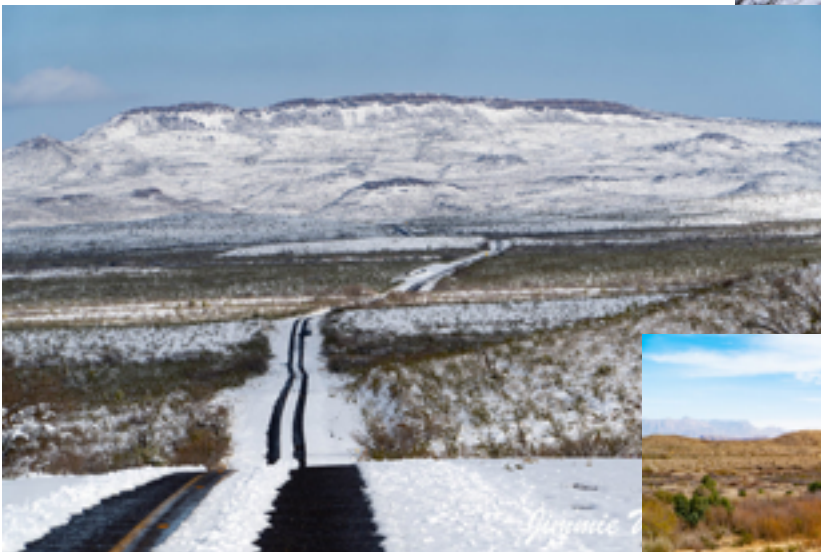
TRAVELER'S CORNER *(cont'd)*

By Jimmie Crawford #110674



Across the river at the La Linda International Bridge was an abandoned town and church and mining operation.

I got snow twice in 4 days during the "Big Chill of 2021" that swept down the middle of the country.



Big Ben National Park

Mexico is on the right of the Rio Grande River.



TRAVELER'S CORNER (cont'd)

By Jimmie Crawford #110674



Alpine, Texas - Another common thing in the west is to put letters on the mountains to indicate where you are? This is Sul Ross State University. On another hill is an A for Alpine. I wish I knew more about this - was it for planes before radar, satellite mapping?

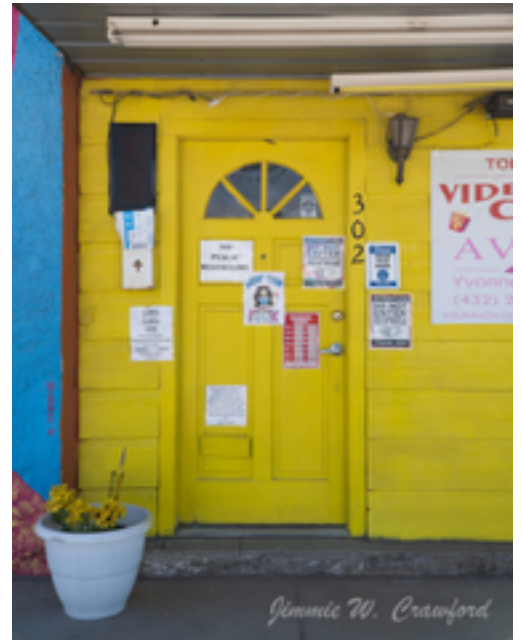


Murphy street was the artist block in town. It was lined with galleries and was home to Tom Curry's studio which I should have photographed but didn't understand the significance at the time, he was the local famous artist.



TRAVELER'S CORNER (cont'd)

By Jimmie Crawford #110674



Every town seems to have a caboose or steam engine on display as part of their railroad heritage.

I love finding what you might call religious folk art.



This mural is a virtual menu of everything Alpine has to offer visitors.

TRAVELER'S CORNER (cont'd)

By Jimmie Crawford #110674



This is a Hispanic guy that rode across the Rio Grande to the US side. When he saw my camera, he went back down the hill and across the river back to Mexico.



The Hispanics bring walking sticks and trinkets over to the US side for the tourist to buy. They leave a bottle or can to put the money in.

Jimmie Crawford
SKP #110674

