

RV Woes in 2020

by Terri Wirtz SKP #93910

For many people, 2020 was a terrible year. They may have lost a loved one to the corona virus; they may have had loved ones or themselves sick with the virus. Or maybe they lost their jobs or were laid off because of the virus. Perhaps the political climate wore them down and created some mental health issues.

I was lucky with my health and my sisters' and their families as well. We also discovered Zoom and have been meeting every Friday evening across several states, enjoying keeping up with our activities and cats' and children's lives. I felt comfortable enough to take a trip from NC to the Midwest during the summer. My youngest sister and her two cats in her Vintage trailer joined me and my two cats in my Flagstaff 5th wheel on a 2-week trek through Wisconsin and Minnesota. Many places were closed due to the virus but we managed to visit family and friends and take a couple boat tours. My report on this trip was posted in last fall's SKP29 Newsletter.

This report is about the 5th wheel and its woes that began on that trip.

At some point traveling between Madison WI to Fond du Lac to Door County, my slideout on the driver's side started to have problems coming back inside. My sister and I spent a couple hours at Beantown campground in Baileys Harbor, crawling under the opened slideout, closing it slowly, trying to find the reason that when it got within 2 feet of being fully in, it would start to twist a little, hit some kind of hump, jump, then slide on in but tearing up bits of the plastic runner and plywood underneath. I called ahead to find an RV service place on our way to Ashland WI that could investigate the problem, but everyone was too busy. This was July after all. Finally found one, but the service tech did the same things that my sister and I did and could not see a problem either.

At our next campground, I left the slide in since we were there only 2 nights. The first night it poured rain and the vent over the bed was dripping. Taking it apart, I could not see where the water was coming from. Despite other days of rain afterwards, no more dripping.

Meanwhile, we moved on to Ashland area where we stayed a few days and I put the slide out, having the same problem bringing it back in when we left. I was able to get an appointment at Ketelsen's RV near Iowa City when we got back to that area in a few more days. Stopped in Baxter MN to spend a night with friends, then another night in southern MN. I kept the slide in.

RV Woes in 2020 (continued)

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In Iowa City, we had campsites side by side at the Coralville Reservoir (COE campground) so I could transfer the cats, food, and clothes to my sister's trailer when she went home. Then I took my fifth wheel to Ketelsen's in Hiawatha where they had it for a week. They could not be sure about the reason for the slideout problem but were going to replace the tracks under the slideout. Since I was concerned about the underlying problem – why did this happen? – I said I would take it back to NC and turn it over to my service place to find the base problem. Ketelsen's also told me that there appeared to be a softness in the roof near where the roof and the front endcap came together which may have been caused by water getting in from the intersection of roof and front endcap.

For several years, I have had issues with this area. It was repaired first in 2015 by Camping World near Kansas City and again by Forest River in Indiana. Forest River, the manufacturer, paid for both repairs, replacing the entire sealant. Every year since, I have had my service place, Shaw RV in Youngsville, replace the sealant.

I got the 5W back to the campground, moved my stuff and the cats back into it, stayed three more days before taking off, back to NC. Meanwhile, my cat Mandy who had been battling an intestinal problem (cancer or IBD) for over 2 years, suddenly stopped eating and drinking. I took her to a local vet and there was nothing that they could do for her so I had to put her down. My other cat and I were extremely stressed that weekend and then left on Monday. I am sure that Julie believed that I was leaving Mandy behind for some ungodly reason. When we finally got home several days later, she spent a lot of time, roaming the yard and inside the house, crying, like she expected Mandy to be there someplace.

Meanwhile, the day we left Iowa, stopping at a COE campground in southern Illinois, we saw on the news that a derecho had passed through Iowa that morning, directly over the Coralville Reservoir. If we had stayed another day, who knows what would have happened to my rig since there were numerous trees down where we had been camped.

We continued on to Tennessee for a night at another COE. The next morning, I had driven about an hour on I-40, when the rear passenger side tire of the fifth wheel blew and shredded, tearing away part of the trailer fender but thankfully, not damaging the propane line that ran past it. Fortunately, we were just a mile from a truckers' pullout area and were able to stop. I have Progressive insurance roadside assistance so called for help in replacing the blown tire with my spare. There was a grassy bank and shade where I took Julie in her carrier and my lawn chair to wait for the RA. I found a dealer in Knoxville, about an hour ahead of me, who carried Hercules tires, to get a replacement for the spare. I had replaced all 5 of the trailer tires in early 2018 and wanted to keep the same brand.

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Most of the day was gone by the time we left Knoxville so I decided not to head for Shelby NC where I had intended to spend the night, visiting my sister-in-law, and instead drove to Asheville NC. It was nearly dark and storm-threatening while I tried to find a campground to stay the night. Tried 2 before deciding to go on the Tom Johnson's Camping World in Marion. Got there about 9 pm, found a site in their rally area, and checked in with them in the morning. Finally got home about noon on August 13th.

I took the trailer to Shaw RV on August 19. When they checked it, they found that the frame under the slideout was bent and cracked. They could not fix it so I started calling around other RV service places, including Camping World (Gander World RV) in Statesville NC which agreed to look at it and fix if at all possible. I have had excellent service from CW/Statesville in the past. I also contacted Forest River and Progressive Insurance about the frame problem, the damage from the blowout, and the roof sealant issue. The fifth wheel was taken to Statesville on Sept. 18. I spent the next three months discussing the problems with Forest River who suggested contacting the frame manufacturer, Lippert Components, with my insurance claims agent, and with Camping World.

Lippert, which is based in Florida, would come up to NC to look at the frame but would charge me for the trip. Then it turned out that they had another job in central NC so I would not have to pay for the trip, but only the time investigating the problem at Statesville. So instead of paying \$1200, I paid \$320 for them to write an invoice that would have me paying almost as much as CW was estimating. However, Lippert would not repair the slideout damage. Meanwhile the insurance company agreed to pay for the fender damage but not the frame or roof. Forest River would not pay for any of it so I had to come up with over \$10,000 to cover the cost of the frame-slideout repairs and another \$9000 for the roof. I was able to talk CW into lowering the cost of their hourly rate from their customary customer charge to the hourly rate for insurances which brought the bill down to \$9200. When they were repairing the fender damage, they found that the frame on the opposite side was also cracked. CW included the repair on that in my total bill.

My friend, Craig Rickenbach, suggested I get the roof done by Country Camping Corners in Kingston NC where they would put a whole new roof, RV Flex Armor, like he had done on his motorhome. I contacted CCC and they said they could do it for about \$7000.

RV Woes in 2020 (continued) ***by Terri Wirtz SKP #93910***

I paid CW for the frame-slideout in three installments and they finished the work the first of March. I then picked up the trailer and moved it to Kingston where it is now waiting on the materials to finish the job. They are estimating that the job will be done in a week or so. It has been a long time without my RV in my yard, but hopefully, I will very soon have it back on the road again. The joys of a second home ownership.

I contacted a local lawyer a couple weeks ago to see if there was any way to recoup my costs. They were kind but did not feel qualified to handle a product liability case and suggested I try someone else in Raleigh. I am weighing my options on that. Just not sure I want to worry about having to sink more costs when I have already spent way more than the value of the trailer.



Frame Break 2020

RV Woes in 2020 (continued)
by Terri Wirtz SKP #93910



Tire Blowout and damage to fender 2020



Roof Damage in Kansas 2015



After CW/Kansas Repair 2015

RV Woes in 2020 (continued)
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After Forest River Repair 2015

Damage as seen by Camping
World / Statesville 2020



Terri Wirtz
SKP #93910



Cautionary Tales

by John Heenan SKP# 164616

My Experience With Bad Fuel

I always try to buy my diesel at a truck stop so I know that it is not sitting underground for long periods. But I overruled my policy and bought some at a Grocery Store gas station. I parked it after fueling and ...

Two weeks later she would not start. When checking the fuel filter, this was what I found...a slimy stuff in the fuel when I removed the filter
So the only way to fix the issue was to bring it to Cat in Charlotte.

Luckily I had done a lot of research and when we bought her we bought our "if I had a problem" policy from Coach Net. They approved the 50 mile + two to the dealership

Here is what showed up and the fellow on the truck was super qualified and detailed. Two things he had to do...

1. Hook up an air line from his truck to release brakes
2. Remove one axle to allow for towing.

Thank goodness I had Coach Net because I have to believe it was a \$1000.00 or more. Took virtually all day.

Fuel microbes need water to survive and thrive. If you have more than, say, half an inch of water (you should be measuring it with a tank stick and some water paste), mechanically drain the water out. Then follow up behind with some kind of water-absorbing chemical treatment to clean up the rest.



Cautionary Tales (continued)

by John Heenan SKP# 164616

My Experience With Bad Fuel



That is why it is important to drain the main fuel filter once in a while to keep water out of the tank. If there is water in the tank you are filling from (that is what I think happened to me) you could have a problem like I had.

I should have added that the Cat dealer recommended that I use the Algae Killer seen below when I fill as a precaution.

https://petetruckparts.com/product/fppf-kill-it-algae-killer-00119/?network=g&device=c&keyword=&campaign=2065798737&adgroup=pla-298214534628&gclid=Cj0KCQjwmluDBhDXARIsAFITC_5CI5Jz1Axa_qRkAOHf97Gnl5iXO3vtDbfrgx2UsYAH7rB1ukIghoaAmFdEALw_wcB



John & Christine Heenan
SKP#164616



Cautionary Tales

by Ron Johnson SKP# 104509

IconDirect.com

In January, six weeks before my scheduled roof work, I ordered a skylight from my RV manufacturer. Five weeks later the order still had not been processed. In my ten plus years of experience with the company they have been notoriously slow, but they reached a new “slow” with this order.

Enter IconDirect, a Manitoba, Canada based manufacturer of RV parts such as skylights, and fender skirts to name two.

The company promises three-day delivery which they met. I ordered the specific skylight and received it in three days so I was able to install the new skylight two days before start of the roof work.

IconDirect is good for when you need parts on short order. However, you will pay a premium; about 50% higher than through my RV manufacturer for this order.

Ron Johnson
SKP# 104509



RV Service Listings

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

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

- AZ Unlimited Collision & RV, 8112 North 75th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345 {Raymond Nuzzolo}
623-979-7565 www.unlimitedcollisionaz.com 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 (cont'd)

- NC RV Rescue (Maintenance, Service, Repair) {Steve Wood}
rv.rescue.help@gmail.com
336-307-9377
- 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)
- NC Love's Tire Service, 1217 Trollingwood Hawfields Rd., Mebane, NC {Raymond Nuzzolo}
27302. 919-563-1814. www.loves.com/locations/667
- NC Country Camping Corner, 101 Oak Grove Rd., Kings Mountain, NC {Craig Rickenbach}
28086 704-734-0595 www.countrycorner.com



Cautionary Tales

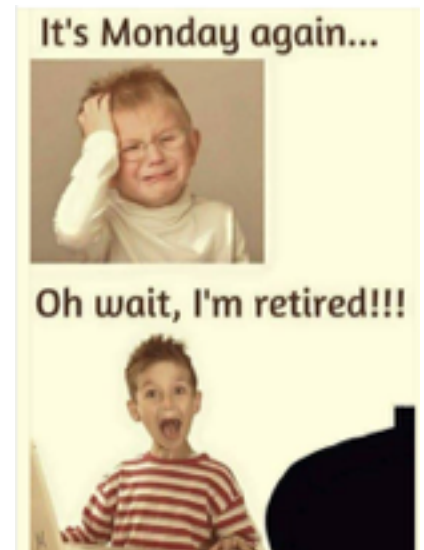
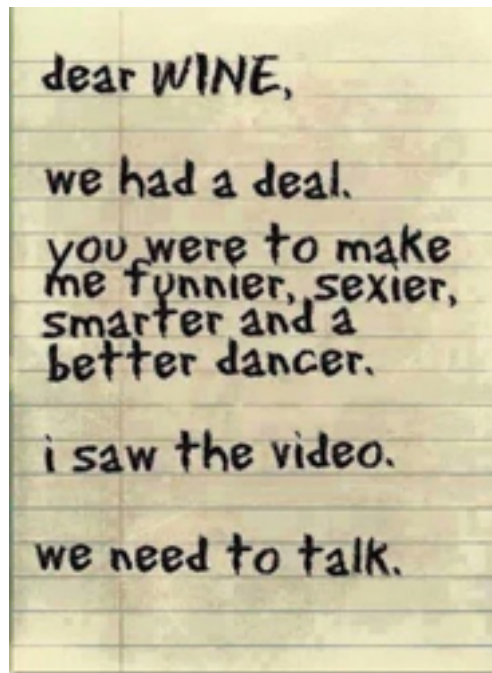
Cautionary Tales includes reports on issues that we as RVers need to be aware of on the road or through RV internet sites. As an RV family, it is our responsibility to pass on information to each other and help us all stay safe on the road. As we publish these in the newsletter, they will also be posted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

Thank You
Dianne Wood
#113382

Just For Fun & Giggles...

by Steve Wood SKP#113382



Hilarious Things My Mother Taught Me...

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE . "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
2. My mother taught me RELIGION. "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
3. My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL . "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
4. My mother taught me LOGIC. " Because I said so, that's why."
5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC. "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT. "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
7. My mother taught me IRONY "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."
8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS. "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."
9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM. "Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
10. My mother taught me about STAMINA. "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

Just For Fun & Giggles...

by Steve Wood SKP#113382

An Obituary printed in the London Times.....Absolutely Dead Brilliant!!

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years.

No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- And maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot.

She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death,
-by his parents, Truth and Trust,
-by his wife, Discretion,
-by his daughter, Responsibility,
-and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 5 stepchildren;

- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm A Victim
- Pay me for Doing Nothing

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing

Steve Wood
SKP#113382



Carolina Rovers - Upcoming Events

2021 Fall Rally - Chapter 29

PINE RIDGE CAMPGROUND

- When:** September 30 - October 3, 2021
- Where:** Pine Ridge Campground
199 Pineridge Campground Rd.
Roebuck, SC 29376
- Rally Hosts:** John & Christine Heenan
jheenan2@me.com
- 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 When Making Reservation:** Carolina Rovers, Escapees Chapter 29
- 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 - Pine Ridge Campground
(Prior to Fall Rally)
September 27 - 29, 2021**

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

Carolina Rovers - Upcoming Events

(Continued)

2022 Spring Rally - Chapter 29



When: April 28 - May 1, 2022

Where: River Vista Mountain Village RV Resort
20 River Vista Drive
Dillard, GA 30537

Rally Hosts: TBD

Rally Fee: TBD

Campground Fee: Rates are dependent on final number of reservations made for rally.
Cancellation Policy:
See Cancellation Policy on next page.

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

Phone / Web: (706) 746-2722
<https://rvmountainvillage.com/contact/>

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

**Convergence - River Vista
(Prior to Spring Rally)
April 25 - 27, 2022**

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

Carolina Rovers - Upcoming Events

(Continued)

2022 Spring Rally - Chapter 29

Cancellation Policy

While we hope you never need to cancel, please read the following:

The River Vista cancellation policy is related to the timeframe between the cancellation date and your expected arrival date, regardless of when the reservation was made. Please understand that camping is meant to be an outdoor experience; we do not give refunds for situations beyond our control (weather, natural disasters, illness). However, we may choose to issue a credit per the cancellation guidelines below.

- RV Site cancellations are subject to a \$15 cancellation fee. Cabin cancellations are subject to a \$25 cancellation fee.
- Online reservations may only be cancelled via phone call to the park office. (706) 746-2722. Customers should receive a cancellation confirmation email after their reservations have been cancelled.
- Special rate and discount packages may not be combined and must be paid in full. Only one discount is allowed per reservation
- No refunds or credits will be given for early departures.
- A reservation cancelled at least 30 days prior to arrival date will result in a refund less a per site/cabin cancellation fee.
- A reservation cancelled less than 30 days but at least 10 days prior to arrival date will receive a credit voucher for a future stay at River Vista, less a per site/cabin cancellation fee. Credit vouchers expire one year from original date of issue
- A reservation cancelled less than 10 days prior to arrival date will receive no refund or credit.
- If you do not call to cancel or show up on your arrival date (no-show), your credit card will be charged the full amount of your reservation. No-shows will receive no refund or credit.
- By providing a credit card number, you are authorizing River Vista the right to bill your credit card for any unpaid balance, costs accrued, and/or damaged property not paid at the time of your departure.
- If you need to change your dates, you may do so at any time up to 10 days before your arrival date for a \$5 date change fee. Reservations cancelled or modified within 10 days are not eligible for a date change.

*Reservation and Cancellation Policies are subject to change without notice.

2022 SKP ACRE Rally

By Steve Masterson



So, let's try this again. As many organizations had to cancel their activities in 2020 and part of 2021, SKP ACRE had to do the same. Things are looking up for the second and third part of 2021 and hopefully we will see a super bright outlook for 2022. The ACRE Steering Committee set the dates for April 18 – April 24, 2022 at River Vista RV Resort in Dillard, GA. You can call the resort at 706-746-2722 to make your reservations. Campground and rally fees are yet to be determined. In 2022, we will again offer Boot Camp prior to the rally. Boot Camp is administered by Jim Koca from SKP, Inc and will run from Friday April 15, 2022 to Sunday April 17, 2022. In addition, we will have Smart Weigh available to weigh your rig along with some seminars. Go to our website at <http://skpacre.weebly.com> for up to date information.

Real Hugs

Steve Masterson

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SKP ACRE Steering Committee

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