



ESCAPEES - CHAPTER 29 CAROLINA ROVERS OCTOBER 2021 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 - Steve Wood**
SKP #113382

Newsletter Editor, Dianne Wood
SKP #113382

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Greetings to all with hopes everyone is well,

The Fall Rally at Pine Ridge Campground in Roebuck, SC was a tremendous success. Many thanks to John Heenan, Rally Host, and to the company he works for who donated the fabulous breakfast donuts from the Netherlands. Sixteen rigs registered for the Rally and five new rigs joined Chapter 29. We had two campfires, lots of good food and conversation, new friends made and old ones renewed. It really was a great rally. The theme at our covered dish dinner was Western and the Spangenberg's, new members, brought cowboy hats and scarves for everyone to wear. Dinner was capped off with an excellent cake to celebrate the Chapter 29's 10th Anniversary after being restarted in 2011. Due to circumstances, other than covid, only one original restarter could attend our celebration which was Jim & Linda Jackson. Jim was our first Newsletter Editor. Hopefully the chapter can celebrate 20 years in 2031.

One item discussed in the Officers meeting concerns 4 large plastic boxes that Rally Hosts have been carrying between rallies. These contain accumulated STUFF such as salt/pepper packs, packages of condiments, utensils etc. from past rallies. This has become cumbersome for next rally hosts to transport from the current rally, home then back to next rally. The Officers decided to donate a majority of the items to a local charity. Steve and Dianne Wood took care of donating items to Macedonia United Methodist Church Food Pantry to be used for meal preparations and their food pantry for the needy.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

Another item discussed at Officers Meeting held before Fall Rally was Rally Hosts. I have asked in several past newsletters for volunteers to come forward to be Rally Hosts and Officers. To date, no one has volunteered. Due to the shortage of volunteers, the officers have decided starting with the Spring 2022 Rally, the chapter will hold "No Host Rallies" until further notice. There would not be a formal agenda except for having a chapter meeting and planned social hour. During the rally if someone wants to recommend an activity like covered dish or dinner out, the members present shall decide what to do. Update: after the Fall Rally, a singles member has stepped up to be Host of Spring 2022 Rally in Dillard, GA. We prefer to have Co-Hosts so need another rig to volunteer. Fall Rally 2022 is open for Hosts to be held in Myrtle Beach.

Getting members to volunteer to be an Officer is another significant issue for the chapter. If this trend continues, the officers may consider suspending activity until members step forward. Please, Please, Please step up. This is your chapter and we need you. Chapter 1, the original Escapees chapter, folded last year, chapter 30 folded 2 years ago, New York chapter folded. Why you ask, NO volunteers for Officers. Georgia chapter went into hibernation for same reason but has since attempted a restart but are again struggling to obtain volunteers. These are not difficult jobs.

Election of Officers, per Bylaws, are held during Spring Rallies. Since covid has caused us to cancel the last two spring rallies the result is that all positions are up for election. Normally it is President/Secretary on even number years and Vice President/Treasurer on odd number years. Term of office is two years but can be re-elected. To get back in sync some positions may be for one year or three years. Barb Alexander helped Terri Wirtz during registration and was training with Terri for potentially following in Terri's footsteps as our next treasurer. For further information, go to www.carolinarovers29.weebly.com. Go to "More" on right side of bar, your will find Chapter Officers and Appointed Committees Job Description. Also located just above Job Descriptions is By-Laws and Standing Rules. I recommend everyone read these.

Hugs,

Craig Rickenbach, President

Craig Rickenbach,
President #72083



Members Meeting October 1, 2021

Fall Rally, Pine Ridge Campground, Roebuck, SC

Chapter meeting was called to order at 9:39 by Craig Rickenbach, chapter president. Craig then led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Elected officers present were Craig Rickenbach, President and Terri Wirtz, Treasurer. Not present was Michael Tasto, Vice President.

Appointed officers present were Dianne Wood, communications director and Steve Wood, rally coordinator. Not present was Steve Masterson officer at large, and Helen Young our sunshine lady.

We welcomed new members:

Janice and Jim Genova, Willow Springs, NC
Pat and Al Lucksavage, Loris, SC
Margie and Gary Spangenberg, Clemson, SC

We had 16 rigs that paid rally fee.

Marie Rickenbach read the minutes of the last members meeting, October 2020. The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's report – The beginning balance was \$1,646.28. \$120.00 was collected last night for rally fees. Since the last rally, a total of \$115.00 was for dues. We have 37 paid up rigs for 2021 and 4 people present have not paid 2021 dues which would bring the total to 41 rigs. Chapter 29 usually has 40-50 rigs registered. We have taken in \$119,50 for Tee shirts and it appears we need to order more. Terri will check with the person who made our shirts as he may or may not be making them post covid. The current balance is \$2,000.78 however there are no receipts for this rally. Terri explained our need to maintain \$500.00 in our account to avoid bank fees. She also explained why checks need to be made payable to Terri Wirtz and not Chapter 29 or Escapees. Terri commented that we need to pare down our account balance, in other words we need to spend some money! The membership voted to accept the treasurer's report.

Rally Coordinator, Steve Wood, reported he would appreciate suggestions for campgrounds for future rallies. We have reserved 30 campsites for the Spring Rally, April 28-May 1, at Dillard, Ga. And the rates will be \$50-55.00 per night depending on the number of rigs attending. PLEASE tell the campground you are with the Chapter 29 Carolina Rovers when making your reservation. This will not only mean you will be more likely to be parked near others in the chapter, but it may make a difference in how much all of us pay for our campsites.

The fall 2022 rally will be at Hideaway Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC. The rates will be about \$45.00 + tax (Myrtle Beach has a high occupancy tax!). The dates are October 6-9, 2022. We need volunteers for rally hosts, and the criteria for a rally host is on our website.

Members Meeting October 1, 2021 (cont'd)

Newsletter Editor, Dianne Wood explained the members directory will be updated after the rally and available to members only. The newsletter is published quarterly and anyone wishing to send pictures or article should do so soon as the newsletter will be published later this month.

Old Business – none

New Business The officers conducted their meeting by zoom this week so all officers could participate. Normally the officers meeting is conducted on Thursday of the rally.

The rallies at River Vista in Dillard, Georgia and Hideaway in Myrtle Beach, SC were mentioned. For more information, see the newsletter.

Chapter 29 donated boxes of equipment and condiments to Macedonia United Methodist Church to be used for meal preparation and their food pantry. Moving these boxes had become a storage problem for chapter members who volunteered as rally hosts.

Chapter 29 NEEDS volunteers to be Officers and Rally Hosts. Chapter 1, the very first Escapees chapter, folded last year due to lack of volunteers. Chapter 30 folded 2 years ago due to lack of volunteers. The New York chapter folded due to lack of volunteers. The Georgia chapter had gone into hibernation, due to lack of volunteers. However has since restarted but is struggling to obtain volunteers. We will be having elections at the Spring Rally, please consider volunteering and talk to a current officer. The criteria for all positions is on our website.

Barb Alexander is training with Terri Wirtz potentially for the position of treasurer.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45.

New members not mentioned above include:

Eddie and Betty Austin, Pawleys Island, SC

Thomas and Michelle Weatherly, CO

Marie Rickenbach
SKP# 72083



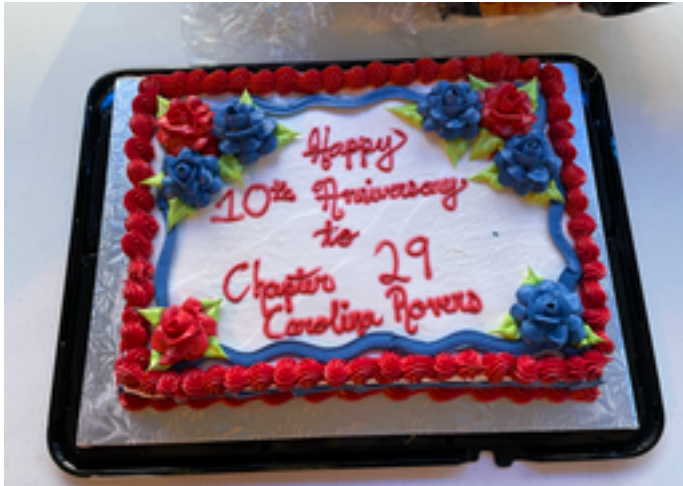
2021 Fall Rally - Roebuck, SC Pine Ridge RV Campground

Editor's Note:

As Craig stated in his President's message, our Fall Rally was a huge success due to the hard work by our Host John Heenan and the participation of all of our members, both current members and new members. We all look forward to our 2022 Spring Rally for even more fun together!



2021 Fall Rally - Roebuck, SC (cont'd)



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2021 Fall Rally - Roebuck, SC *(cont'd)*



*Happy 10th
Anniversary
Carolina Rovers
Chapter #29*

New Members

Please join us in welcoming our newest Carolina Rovers members. We hope you had a great time at the Fall Rally and we look forward to seeing you again in the near future.



Jim & Janice Genova



Al & Pat Lucksavage



Gerhard & Margie
Spangenberg



Eddie & Betty Austin



Tom & Michelle Weatherly

Welcome

New Members (cont'd)

The following individuals joined our chapter during Covid 19 and have not yet had the opportunity to attend a rally. We welcome them and hope to meet them personally at the Spring Rally.



Robert & Lynda Jensen - 2020



Gary & Sonja Stroehl - 2019

Brian & Patrice Rogers - 2021

Mary Lee - 2021

Bruce & Jan Pickett - 2021

Jon & Sandy Swarts - 2021



The following two couples joined us during a group get-together at Cross Winds Family Campground in Spencer, NC.



John & Christine Heenan



JoAnn Doane

TRAVELER'S CORNER

Post-Script May-April 2021

Adventures With My RV

by Linda Stevens SKP #114064

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, I bought a “new to me” 2012 Winnebago Vista in March, 2021, in Iowa. The Winnebago is 8 ft. shorter than my 38 ft. Dutch Star. Yes, indeed, size matters - I know you're smiling! That signaled the start of my learning curve on the way home from Iowa. 30 amps vs. 50 amps, gas vs. diesel. Then there were constant struggles to control the steering wheel due to the lighter weight of the new girl. Plus, the slide on the driver's side began slipping in and out from the side wall! Once home, my local mechanic fixed the slide and did my engine inspection. And, thanks to Craig Rickenbach, I am no longer being sucked in by passing 18-wheelers. He installed front and rear sway bars, and a steering stabilizer. They make a huge difference. He also lowered the hitch to accommodate the CRV toad.

My 2021 RV adventure continued with a trip to Illinois in July to see daughter and two of the three great granddaughters. I could make a fortune if I could bottle their energy! However, even before I got to I-26 in Asheville, I was hit by a flock of Canadian geese. Well, at least 3 of the flock anyway. I honked at two poking across the road, startling five others nearby. Three flew very low across the front of my RV windshield. During flight, two others hit the back of the driver's side of the RV. Pat verified the strike by finding green goose poop on the side of the RV - closely matching the driver's underwear! Those rear sway bars kept me upright and mobile as I flirted with the ditch on the country road. Thank you, Craig and my driving angels!

Every road I traveled from Asheville to Illinois seemed to be under construction. I missed my air suspension bags in the Big Girl. So I bought a new padded seat cushion for my own rear suspension assistance! LOL I enjoyed the inner woodworking changes while on the road, thanks again to Craig. He made many space-saving alterations to maximize the more compact interior. Love my new floor plan!

Once I arrived in Illinois, another monumental experience occurred. While my RV was unattended, and during a rainstorm, a lightning strike hit my power post! Thank you, surge protector, for shutting everything down in the RV. However, I had to move to another site since the post was now compromised. Because the RV was new, I had trouble finding the breakers. Fellow campers tried to help restore the power inside the RV, but they couldn't find all the breakers either. Note to self: It's a good idea to find the location of all the breakers before you need to find them. For example, in this RV, some were inside on floor level, and some were outside.

TRAVELER'S CORNER *(cont'd)*

by Linda Stevens SKP #114064

The challenges didn't end there. Next, the generator would not start. Manual attempts failed. It meant a starter and solenoid replacement when I got home. My cat Rascal and I sure could have used the house AC to help cool us on the way home. The dash AC was struggling.

Woman conquers multiple RV challenges! Needless to say, I was glad to be resting back home near Asheville, North Carolina. I thought I was going to miss you at the Fall Rally, because we were going to be in Italy, and then to a wedding in Connecticut. In Italy, we saw almost no RVs on the roads in the Tuscany region. There were good reasons for that. First, one must take a special RV driving test because the roads are very narrow and there are dozens of different symbols on the road signs. Second, the highways are only for speed demons! Shoulders and pull-offs were practically nonexistent, as were gas stations/rest stops. Third, the drivers are skilled but crazy. However, no accidents were seen in 17 days of travel in the country and in cities like Florence and Siena. In a last-minute change of plans, I got to go to the Rally. Next stop: SKP ACRE in April, and Chapter Rally following - See you then! Happy trails, Linda

Linda Stevens
SKP #114064

