



ESCAPEES - CHAPTER 29 CAROLINA ROVERS JANUARY 2022 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

Hi All,

The year is starting off as Deja vu, repeat of last year, Virus uptick and Rain, lots of rain! However, we are hoping 2022 is better than 2021. Rest assured the Officers will be monitoring the virus situation closely. After cancelling 2020 and 2021 Spring Rallies, we are hoping to finally hold Officers Elections during the 2022 Spring Rally. This being an even number year we are due for electing a President and Treasurer. Vice President and Secretary are elected on odd number years. But since we have not had a secretary for two years, we will hold an election for a secretary too. Generally, officers hold respective positions for two year terms (can hold multiple terms) but the Secretary would be just one year till 2023. If anyone is interested in any of these position please notify Mike Tasto (current Vice President) at mbtasto252@gmail.com or any other current officer (Craig Rickenbach, Terri Wirtz, Steve Masterson, Steve Wood or Dianne Wood). The chapters only exist with volunteers. May chapters have been disbanded due to lack of volunteers and participation in chapter activities. To be honest, the current officers have considered this option but are doing everything possible not to disband.

Last year when the Woods and Rickenbach's spent a month at Myrtle Beach State Park, we had 28 days and 28 nights of rain. We were told it was the rainiest year in 10 years. We must be gluttons for punishment because we are doing it again this year. We will be there from January 11 to February 11.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

Last year there were still many sites available, many with full hookup. If you want to get in on the Month at Half Price deal you must call the park rangers directly at 843-238-5325. The Rickenbach's are in 229 and the Woods in 318. You can call me at 803-372-2998 if you have any questions. We now know all the good breakfast and dinner spots. Food!!!! And Friendship.

Our camping plans are shaping up to be very busy in 2022. Due to finally being in good health and hopefully no virus, Marie and I are making our fourth attempt at an out west trip. We plan to leave from Escapade in Lebanon, Tenn. If everything we plan happens this year it will be very busy with our western trip, two-chapter rallies, SKP ACRE, Escapade, Beach Camping in January, Smoky Mountains in October and moving. Did I say moving. We will be moving 2.7 miles away from current home (same town). Our younger son, wife and their son moved in with us for three months in preparation to sell their house. They closed on their old house on December 27 and then closed on their new house December 28. The new house is on 2 ½ acres and includes a large in-law suite. We plan to list our current home "as coming soon" starting first of February and start our move upon returning from beach.

Don't forget about upcoming activities and make your reservation early. First will be SKP ACRE (All Chapters Rally East) April 18 to 24 followed by Chapter 29 Spring Rally April 28 to May 1 both being held at River Vista campground in Dillard, GA. The few days in-between events a few of the Chapter 29 members who are just staying put at River Vista in Dillard. Then Escapade in June and Chapter 29 Fall Rally in early October in Myrtle Beach. Further information is available below

Looking forward to seeing many of you at SKP ACRE and especially our Chapter 29 Rally.

Craig Rickenbach, President

Craig Rickenbach,
President #72083



New Members

Please join us in welcoming our newest Carolina Rovers members. We look forward to meeting them all at our Spring Rally.

Stephen & Linda Quimby
SKP# 173982

James & Diane Steppe
SKP# 163857

Cliff & Jane Peschansky
SKP# 115274

Welcome

TRAVELER'S CORNER

by Linda Stevens SKP #114064

Italy 2021

Italy was wonderful...Trip started Sept. 3rd and ended in Florence on Sept. 21st. We stayed with a group of 12 people all together on this countryside converted Tuscan farmhouse for 7 day. Pat's cat psychic friend was going and talked us into this wonderful experience. Our room was peaceful over looking their countryside property. We saw the sun rise and set! The fields of sunflowers were winding down.

A chief cooked local tuscan evening meals with local wines accompanying 5 courses! His family made the pasta and worked on our evening meals after serving us breakfast of homemade delights and Mom was the espresso/latte gourmet maker. The morning crew spoke broken English and we eagerly learned Italian!

Each day was an adventure to different places with the estate as the hub. All lunches eating out/wines/drivers/guides, Van drivers included in this part of trip.

Drivers took us to Assisi, - Basilica of St. Frances, Cortona, several wine vineyards with lunch, and a candlelight picnic at one and knowledgeable guided tours- Chara so knowable/ great historian of churches which gave us back round info so we could appreciate art better-in Orvieto Piazza del Duamo talking about Renaissance art had evolved. A boat on the lake Traisimono snacks and a castle!

Another dinner at an old converted farm Grotta that now rents villas there. Two sisters run it and fed us local food delights. Amazing cooks still on a wood stove. We ate in what was once the stables! Candlelight, old stones/beams beautiful now...located way back into the winding countryside this 14th Century Hamlet.

A fun cooking class with the chief learning the art of home made pasta making...Formal Farewell "party night" on the grounds magical with music, wines. Many days of free time via van or relaxing in the afternoons -back free times to see areas on our own and mingle with the locals, with pick up at a certain spot back to "farm". The room where dinners were served to us had glass ceiling and walls -candles reflecting all around/flowers fresh each night -dinners outstanding. Wines -no sulfites -so no hangovers like wines here. Daily walking - I only gained 3 pounds!!!! Now that is amazing! LOL.

Beckie Brought in an olive oil producer so we could taste/buy real pure oils. We saw where the movie Under the Tuscan Sun (2003) was filmed near Cortona. Women's villas (Helen Mays)/ beautiful - saw/still has the shrine the old man put flowers on for his wife each day. A day in Siena...towns built on top of other towns as they fought wars - saw under town ruins. Many Churches where not even a centimeter was not filled with painting, mosaic, carved pillars, marble, gold inlays, frescos restored after Germans painted over them!

TRAVELER'S CORNER *(cont'd)*

by Linda Stevens SKP #114064

Next we went for two days back to Assisi to walk in nature - peace to breathe again. The Hermitage of St. Francis and back to his Basilica of St. Francis - so much to soak in could not do it on Beckies day there.

We got picked up and driver took us to Florence to our next B & B in a neighborhood about 10 mins from town. Linda was delightful, to prepare us for our walking tour of Florence and oriented us to bus lines and food where the locals eat. She did a slide presentation with Proceco wine and local cheese and sausages when we got there! Next day we were off with her to tour, Uffizi galleria & shops along the river. Next day pre tickets to Accademia statues/David etc.. We did not know the fascination of male genitals!!! LOL.

Next day she drove us to the train station for our 2 hr. ride to Cinque de Terra the coast line of towns to visit and enjoy Gelato, local fish and limoncello to finish meals off as waves crashed onto rocks we over looked. There were trails to walk but because of the rains the day before some were closed. Good thing. Local train took us to next towns in comfort! Walked to grape/lemon orchards and more vineyards.! Very steep hillsides. Terracing was amazing and there are craftsmen who rebuild these walls moving almost daily as needed to different spots. A tram to get grape baskets down the hill 100's of years old- strong pulley!

She arranged for us to go to the clinic to get mandatory testing and a cab! We kept getting lost in Florence and did not want to miss our appointment! Florence is a maze of streets that go around buildings, change directions going north and then it is south???, compounded by a street changing its name every block! We never knew where we were or which direction we were in?? Also the travel card for Pat's phone would not connect to her phone so we had no communication in Florence-Ha.- Pat without a phone is frightening!!!

Back Home. Florence to Paris and home to Atlanta/Asheville. Happy but Tired/ time changes.

Amazing first time across the pond!!

Editor's Note:

Linda sent me many beautiful pictures. It was difficult to decide which ones to include in the newsletter and I have to admit that I got lost in the pictures, so not sure I could title them correctly. I've chosen a few but would recommend you talk with Linda during our next rally and let her show and tell you about them all.

Linda - great trip!!! Thanks for your pictures.

Dianne Wood

TRAVELER'S CORNER (cont'd)
by Linda Stevens SKP #114064



Basilica of St. Francis



TRAVELER'S CORNER (cont'd)
by Linda Stevens SKP #114064



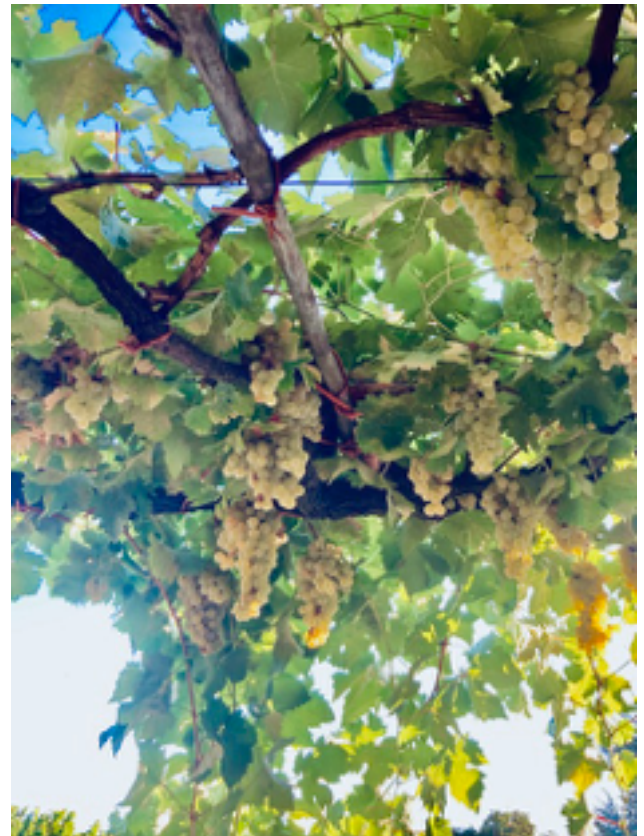
TRAVELER'S CORNER (cont'd) by *Linda Stevens SKP #114064*



Siena

TRAVELER'S CORNER (cont'd)

by **Linda Stevens SKP #114064**



Town of Cortona & Monastery that St. Francis of Assis completed for the monks

TRAVELER'S CORNER (cont'd)
by Linda Stevens SKP #114064



Cortona



TRAVELER'S CORNER (cont'd)
by Linda Stevens SKP #114064



TRAVELER'S CORNER *(cont'd)* by *Linda Stevens SKP #114064*



Florence



Linda Stevens
SKP #114064



TRAVELER'S CORNER

by Margie & Gerhard Spangenberg SKP #82921

MARGIE'S AND GARY'S EXPERIENCE AT THE CAPULIN VOLCANO N.M

During our 200,000+ miles of travel in two motor homes we discovered many natural wonders that were frequently a part of our National Parks System. One of those was the Capulin Volcano National Monument. Since finding it may be of interest to others, the GPS Coordinates are given for the Visitor Center oversized vehicle parking area.

In Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds: 36 46 41.27N, 103 58 46.27W in Degrees : N 36.77813, W103.97952

The DeLorme Street Atlas USA map for the area is Figure 1.



Figure 1

Once we arrived, we went inside the visitor center to watch a short film about the volcano's origin and learned a bit of the history behind its inclusion into the National Park System. The Capulin Volcano is part of the Raton-Clayton Volcanic field in northeastern New Mexico. It erupted about 60,000 years ago when mammoth and giant bison roamed these plains.

After 1932 Homer Farr was custodian of the volcano for 32 years. He was also the postmaster. Farr surveyed, designed and built the road to the volcano's rim using a mule-drawn plow. He completed it in 1925. In the 1930's he obtained Civil Works Project funding for hiring workers to widen and maintain the road. The road to the volcano's rim is shown in Figure 2 using Google Earth Pro.

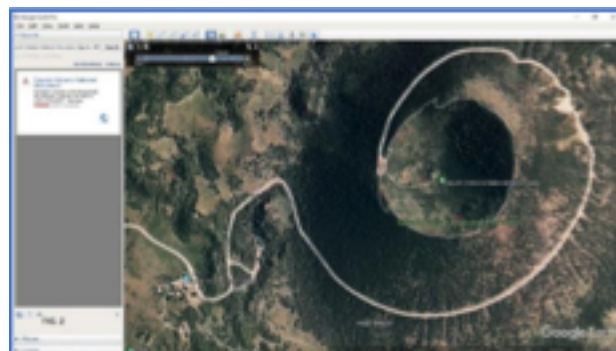


Figure 2

TRAVELER'S CORNER

by Margie & Gerhard Spangenberg SKP #82921

The 2-mile long road is still too narrow to accommodate two-way traffic with RVs or busses through tight turns unless it is changed into a one way street. Two Park Rangers with handheld transceivers communicate between the top and bottom of the volcano to do just that for us in our 30ft Sightseer. Once we arrived on top, one of three parking areas designated for RV or buss was offered to us by the ranger (see Figure 3).



Figure 3

The view was spectacular. Figure 4 Shows one view toward the reception center.



Figure 4

TRAVELER'S CORNER

by Margie & Gerhard Spangenberg SKP #82921

One must be there at 7,877 feet to slowly digest the vista that spans four states on a clear day such as we had. But I cast my eye on the crater bottom (Figure 5)



Figure 5

and proceeded down the concrete paved path. Sponge like rocks were on either side of the winding 0.2 mile trail. By the time I arrived 105 feet lower at the crater bottom (figure6) it was almost anticlimactic.



Figure 6

TRAVELER'S CORNER

by Margie & Gerhard Spangenberg SKP #82921

But like all good places there is a plaque to read. After my return to the home base, Margie had prepared lunch. Water boiled for her at a lower temperature of 197 degrees. After lunch we went back down by waiting for a one-way street arrangement set up by the rangers. We parked again in the reception center RV parking area and adventured by foot over the Lava flow trail. The heat of the day and high altitude OF 7,000 feet (pilots require oxygen masks at 8,000 ft) slowly got to us, Margie and I were happy to see the reception center again (Figure 7).



Figure 5

This was our first volcano to visit, and it sure provided for a totally involving day at a very high altitude of over 7,000 feet, starting with the reception center activity, then the snaking drive to the top of the volcano, the resultant incredible panoramic views, the short crater bottom trail hike, a delicious lunch, and finishing with the longer Lava Flow Trail. We were pleasantly exhausted and looked forward to arriving at the next RV campground, and any sightseeing adventures the following day could possibly bring in our Winnebago Sightseer.

The Dynamic Duo of Margie and Gary (XSCAPERS #82921)

Margie & Gerhard Spangenberg
SKP# 82921



Classifieds

Looking for something?
Have something to sell? We
invite you to submit
classifieds for each issue.
Please include pictures or
detailed description if
available, along with a
contact name and either an
email address or a phone
number.



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

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





SKP ACRE RALLY 2022

APRIL 18 - 24, 2022

River Vista RV Resort, Dillard, GA 706-746-2722

April 15 - 17, 2022

Boot Camp (Immediately preceding the Rally)

www.RVMountainVillage.com

Are you ready for an awesome year for RVing? The ACRE Steering Committee is ready. Online SKP ACRE Registration is open, seminars are being planned and food is being ordered. ACRE will be held from Monday April 18 to Sunday April 24, 2022 at River Vista RV Resort in Dillard, GA. You can call the resort at 706-746-2722 to make your reservations. In 2022, we will again offer SKP 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. 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. Additionally, we will have an RV Driving School available April 1-29, 2022, instructed by Tim Armstrong. This would include two classes (1) Driving Your RV Safely - covering such things as space management, cornering and backing, mountain driving and many other safety items and (2) Everyone Should Drive - focusing on the importance of having everyone able to drive the RV.

After ACRE stay in the area and attend the 2022 Escapade in Lebanon, TN from Sunday June 19, 2022 to Wednesday June 22, 2022.

ACRE: <https://skpacre.weebly.com>

Boot Camp: <https://www.escapees.com/community-calendar/category/rvers-boot-camp/>

SmartWeigh: <https://escapees.com/education/smartweigh/>

RV Driving School: RVDrivingschool.com for more information and scheduling.

Escapade: <https://escapade.escapees.com>

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 & Webmaster

Steve Masterson
SKP# 95338



Carolina Rovers - Upcoming Events *(cont'd)*

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: Linda Stevens

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 When Making Reservation: Carolina Rovers, Escapees Chapter 29

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 *(cont'd)*

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 Fall Rally - Chapter 29

**Hideaway RV Resort
October 6 - 9, 2022**



RESERVATION NOTICE

IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON ATTENDING OUR FALL RALLY AT HIDEAWAY RV RESORT IN MYRTLE BEACH, SC, YOU **MUST MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NO LATER THAN APRIL 2022 IN ORDER TO BE PLACED WITHIN OUR GROUP.**

YOU MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS AFTER THAT TIME AND STILL GET THE GROUP RATE, HOWEVER, THERE IS **NO GUARANTEE THAT YOU WILL BE LOCATED CLOSE TO OUR GROUP OR THAT THERE WILL BE SITES AVAILABLE.**

Carolina Rovers - Upcoming Events *(cont'd)*

2022 Fall Rally - Chapter 29



When: October 6 - 9, 2022

Where: Hideaway RV Resort
5790 Dick Pond Rd.
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

Rally Hosts: **RALLY HOST NEEDED -**
If interested, contact Steve Wood
woods43nc@gmail.com

Rally Fee: TBD

Campground Fee: Rates are dependent on site reserved.
Please refer to next page for Rates.

Cancellation Policy:
See Cancellation Policy on next page.

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

Phone / Web: (843) 444-2119
<https://hideawayrvresort.com>

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

**Convergence - Hideaway RV Resort
(Prior to Fall Rally)
October 3-5, 2022**

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

Carolina Rovers - Upcoming Events (Cont'd)

2022 Fall Rally

Check in – October 6, 2022

Check out – October 9, 2022

No. of sites - 30

Site #'s - #38 - #67

RATES:

Reservations for 7 or more nights - standard pull thru full hook up site - \$45+tax

Reservations for less than 7 nights – standard pull thru full hookup site - \$53+tax

Upgraded waterfront site 7 or more nights – pull thru full hookup site - \$50+tax

Upgraded waterfront site less than 7 nights – pull thru full hookup site - \$58+tax

****waterfront sites cannot be held without deposits and are based on availability****

Deposit amount – one-night site fee plus tax

Cancellation Policy –

- reservations cancelled more than 30 days from check in date will receive a full refund
- reservations cancelled within 30 days of check in date will be charged a \$35 fee
- reservations cancelled within 7 days of check in date will forfeit a one-night site fee plus tax

****Deposits must be paid by April 1, 2022 or sites will be released****

Any sites not reserved by April 1, will be released to the public. If sites are still available after April 1, they will be first come first served but you may not be located within the group sites.

****Rate will be honored should guest choose to stay longer or check in earlier based on availability****

Activity Building available to group October 6 – 9, 2022. Gas grill, griddle and trash cans provided, and trash picked up during the day, otherwise clean-up of activity building provided by the group