



CAROLINA ROVERS NEWS

ESCAPEES CHAPTER 29

NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA



Message from the President

Greetings and we hope this message finds you well. It has been another great summer and I will go into more details in another article for this newsletter. After ACRE we stopped in Livingston to visit SKP Headquarters and CARE. We were blown away by the size and complexity of the Mail Service Center and it was great meeting the staff.

Our newly rejuvenated Chapter continues to grow in numbers. So far this year we have added 14 new members. I am also very pleased with members who have stepped up and taken on leadership roles. We know from history that for a chapter to be healthy and vibrant, we must share and transfer leadership roles. At SKP ACRE Terri Wirtz stepped up and took on the position of Treasurer. Kaye Heins stepped into a new role as VP. Bobby and Sherry Ward volunteered for Rally Master for our Fall 2013 Rally along with Keith and Carol Martin. Bruce and Connie Long volunteered to take the lead for setting up and staffing the ROW at the 2013 Escapade in Gillette, WY. Bruce also volunteered to be Rally Master for the Spring 2014 Chapter 29 Rally along with me. Selene Montgomery continues to do a great job as our Secretary and Jim as our Newsletter Editor, Historian and as you may have witnessed at SKP ACRE, our Good Will Ambassador as many of our members are. And as always, everyone helps when needed at our rallies. These are but a few examples of how our Chapter continues to be healthy and thrive.

See y'all (or is it All Y'all) down the road.

Steve Masterson

President, Chapter 29 Carolina Rovers



CHAPTER 29 SPRING 2013 NON-RALLY RALLY

On April 18-21, 2013, just prior to SKP ACRE, six rigs gathered at Wilson's River Front Camp ground in Ashville, NC for a casual, nothing planned, no meetings rally. We had a great time. We went out to eat several times, had a chocolate factory tour and had some getting to know you time. Our president, Steve Masterson was told by the camp ground that there were no vacancies. We don't know why he was turned away. Steve and Kathy did join us for dinner. Attendees were Keith & Carol Martin, Kaye and Erwin Heins, Bob & Debby Seaver, Mary & Andy Brown, Jim & Linda Jackson, Connie & Bruce Long. Keith and Carol with passengers Kaye and Erwin were rear ended by a very drunk driver and totaled their truck. It shook the passengers up but no serious injuries. The driver attempted to flee but the vigilantes restrained him until the police arrived. All in all we had a great time. Let's do it again.

Submitted by: Jim Jackson



Connie Long, Bruce Long, Linda Jackson, Kathy Werth, Steve Masterson, Andy Brown, Mary Brown



Bruce Long with Cody and Amber

CHAPTER 29 SPRING 2013 RALLY

Chapter 29 had their spring rally at Tom Johnson's campground, Marion, NC. It was held in conjunction with SKP ACRE 2013. We set up tents and had a gathering point in the middle of the RV's. We had social hour and invited everyone at SKP ACRE to join us. The chapter also had a business meeting and welcomed the six new members who signed up at the rally. We had a pot luck dinner in the pavilion and had a fantastic feast. GO CAROLINA ROVERS, keep going and growing.

The chapter presented a stained glass piece to Bryan and Jane Rose for their efforts in organizing SKP ACRE, and managing the continued success and growth. They are also members of Ch29. The stained glass was a bouquet of red roses with "The Rose's" in blue letters and a clear beveled border.

The chapter also presented Norman and Carol Lowrance a stained glass piece for their 50th wedding anniversary. It was an 18" octagon with a rose, hummingbird and "50". We also learned we had several others that had been married 50 years or more. Congratulations to you all!!!!!!



Bryan and Jane Rose



Norman and Carol Lowrance

SKP ACRE 2013

SKP ACRE 2013 (April 21-28, 2013) was another success and lots of camaraderie, food, entertainment, & tours. We had a lot of first time ACRE attendees and made a lot of new friends. Food? I'll say, we ate like kings and queens. On Tuesday, there was a catered dinner by Countryside BBQ Restaurant that included pork barbecue with optional red sauce (delicious!), baked beans, potato salad, rolls, tea, and blackberry cobbler. Wednesday night there was a pot luck sponsored by the Doves. On Friday evening, Chapter 29 had a pot luck dinner. There was breakfast every morning also, with Eggs in a Bag on Friday morning. There was an optional catered dinner on Friday night, with pot roast and all the fixings.

Chapter 29 again handled the CARE auction. Part was a live auction and part was a silent auction. Thanks to everyone for their donations. We had fun while raising money for CARE. Thanks to Bryan & Jane Rose and all of their ACRE staff. Thanks to the many volunteers who make things easier for everyone. We did have lots of rain and one large class A motorhome buried the rear wheels in the mud and remained there while we rounded up Tom Johnson personnel on a Sunday morning to pull them out. It ended the same way with rain, rain, rain. We still had a great Escapee rally with lots of fun and memories. Due to the May 12-17, 2014 ESCAPADE in Goshen, IN, and SKP ACRE 2014 being so close together, SKP ACRE will be held in Goshen in conjunction with Escapade. This will allow members to attend both and not rush from one to the other.

Submitted by: Jim Jackson



Jack Mulhall, Bryan Rose, Keith Martin



Jack and Sue Brinker



CHAPTER 29 Fall 2013 RALLY

When: 9/18/13 - 9/22/13 (Some are coming in on 9/15/13 and stay for a week)

Where: Sleepy Bears RV Park, 465 Kenric Road, Lumberton, NC 28360
On frontage road just off I-95 and between I-74 and the next exit north.
GPS Coordinates: lat 34.605410 lon 79.099697 **or** lat 34.36.19.4754 lon 79.5.58.9092
Campground Website: <http://www.sleepybearsrvpark.com>

Rally Masters: Bob Ward [REDACTED]
Keith Martin [REDACTED]

VCR's (Volunteer Club Representatives):
Tom & Mary Anne O'Bryant [REDACTED]

Game Master: Jim Jackson [REDACTED]

Cost for Camping: Camping fees are to be paid directly to the Campground. Cost is \$26 for 30 amp and \$28 for 50 amp per night.

Rally Fee: \$30 couple, \$15 single payable to Escapees Chapter 29 and mail to: Terri Wirtz, Treasurer, SKP Chapter 29, 1244 Woodland Church Rd., Wake Forest, NC 27587

Pre- and Post-rally rates would be the same.

Reservations: Call the campground at 910-739-4372 (make sure to say that you are with the Escapee rally)

Important: Please make your own reservations. No deposit required. If you call ahead and cancel: no problem. If you no-show and no-call the Campground, the Chapter will be charged 1 nights camping fee which we will have to collect from you.

The **GAMEMASTER**, (Jim Jackson) will need some help and Instructors for dominos, cards, Cribbage, Bridge, etc. I hope to offer: Ladder Golf game, bean toss game, horse shoes (does anyone have horseshoes?), Cribbage, bridge, dominos, cards, anything else you want to bring or to do. We can use the "free time" to get in practice and lessons.

53rd ESCAPADE, GILLETTE, WYOMING

After SKP ACRE 2013, Chapter 29 had four couples head west toward Gillette, Wyoming for the 53rd ESCAPADE June 30, to July 5, 2013. Pictured below are Kaye and Erwin Heins, Bruce and Connie Long, Mary and Andy Brown, Debby and Bob Seaver. Bob, Debby and Erwin volunteered on the parking crew and Kaye worked in the office. Bruce and Connie Long were the chapter row reps. They set up the row booth and manned it, in addition to toting all the stuff to Gillette. All Chapter 29 attendees made time to go out to dinner twice while there. A good time was had by all. Also pictured below is the statue in front of Cam-plex in Gillette.



New Chapter 29 Members 2013

At SKP ACRE this year (April 21-28, 2013) in Marion, NC we recruited 6 new Chapter 29 members bringing our new member total to 14 for 2013. We welcome you, ***with open arms of course!*** Please join us for the fall chapter 29 rally in Lumberton, NC at Lazy Bear's Camp Ground. The more you get to know us, the more you will love us and enjoy Chapter 29.

Patience and Flexibility – The RV'ers Motto

In 2001 I attended a program titled, "Life on Wheels" in Harrisburg, PA. The program was the creation of Maxwell Gaylord from Moscow, Idaho. Maxwell assembled some of the most talented people in the RV world to deliver workshops during this week long program for full time RV'ers and full time want to bees. I was a "Want to Bee" as I still had 4 more years to work before I could retire. I remember a lot from my week in Harrisburg and two things continue to play out in my mind as I continue with the RV'ing lifestyle. The first thing was a story that Maxwell told and I have used many times since. Maxwell said, "If you have a problem with your RV, go outside to the area that you think the problem may be located. Remove any paneling or open a door. Stand back, and scratch your head. I guarantee you that before you know it, someone will come up and offer to help. That's the nature of RV'ers. The next thing is you better have is that persons beverage of choice in you RV because they are going to help you fix it." Another story that I remember and may have been at Maxwell's presentation, covered "Patience and Flexibility". Someone said, if you are going to own an RV you have to remember that each time you drive it or tow it down the road, it's like being in an earthquake and hurricane at the same time. Things break, period. Then when you take it in for repairs you wait, and wait, and wait, and wait some more.

So, where am I going with this? Well, this summer Kathy helped remind me of the need for "Patience and Flexibility." We left San Antonio heading west with Caitlyn, my 14 year old Granddaughter when the "check engine" light came on. I pulled over, checked voltage, oil pressure, temps, fluid levels and more. Everything looked good. Then I called Lazydays and Cummins Tech support and they said it should be ok to drive as long as the "stop engine" light does not come on. So we called ahead and made an appointment at the Cummins Coach Care Center in Albuquerque, NM for the following week. Then we altered our schedule (flexibility) and went to Santa Fe for a few days where we hooked up with Keith and Carol Martin for a very nice dinner. (stress reducer) The following Monday we went to Albuquerque, more affectionately called Camp Cummins. The next day they checked things out and found the problem. They called the manufacturer to get approval to do the work only to discover that they were closed for the week due to the 4th of July holiday. No one was there to authorize 3 hours for repairs. (Patience) Now remember, we have a 14 year old who was expecting to go to the beautiful mountains in Colorado for some off roading in our Jeep (patience). Now she's in an industrial section of Albuquerque. Often Kathy said to me, "Honey, (she always calls me Honey ☺))) please remember, "Patience and Flexibility". This story ends well. We had a wonderful time in Albuquerque and Caitlyn enjoyed her time with us. The motor home was repaired, Camp Cummins was free and we practiced "Patience and Flexibility".

Submitted by: Steve Masterson

Chapter 29 Member Travel Stories

Submitted by: Bruce and Connie Long

We traveled west and enjoyed some spectacular National Parks, National Monuments, National Forests and State Parks. From the windy plains to the towering Tetons we got to experience some of the best of South Dakota, Wyoming, Iowa, and Wisconsin. We attended three RV rallies (including Escapade) as well as EAA Airventure.

At the Escapade in Gillette, with help from Andy and Mary Brown, we staffed our chapter row. We had over 200 visitors and received a number of complements on the display, especially Jim's (Jackson) stained glass artwork. The highlight of Escapade was meeting old and new friends and enjoying the comradery we have come to enjoy from SKPs.

We also experience some problems with the rig, tow bar, and Toad. However, we would not trade the experience but have to go home to pay the bills.....

Journey of Miles

Kaye and Erwin Heines

From SKP ACRE in April, Kaye and Erwin meandered west making stops in Livingston, TX, Roswell, NM (one of Kaye's favorite places – NOT), Chama, NM, Tierra Wools, NM, Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado ending up in Gillette, WY for the Escapade. Along the way Kaye documented their trip and posted it to her Blog. Click on the link below for details, beautiful pictures and interesting, Kaye like, tales.

www.kayeheins.blogspot.com

Keith and Carol Martin

Submitted by: Steve Masterson

Keith and Carol had an interesting summer as well. This year they were planning a cross-country trip to California to visit family, friends and people from their old neighborhood in Davis, CA. So they left home in South Port, NC in early April and headed for Marion, NC. On April 16, 2013 while attending Chapter 29 Pre Non Rally Rally (more on the title later) in Ashville, they were rear ended by a drunk driver while heading out for dinner. The insurance company totaled their truck so now they needed to rethink their plans. Go back home and regroup or adjust their timeline and continue their journey west? Well they decided to continue on. First they had to find a new vehicle. They were very fortunate to find an SUV in Marion and have it outfitted a few miles north in TN to flat tow. From there they traveled down the Natchez Trace Parkway stopping at the Riverview RV Park in Vidalia, LA on the Mississippi River. The staff were wonderful, very nice sites, most pull through with a concrete pad. Oh, and level. (More on finding a level site at our Fall Rally) Continuing west they stopped in Boerne, TX for a mini Chapter 29 rally with me (Steve) while doing some sightseeing. Fast forward to southern California to visit family and friends. Then a huge right turn to head back east. Along the way they stopped in Santa Fe, NM for a week where they stayed at Trailer Ranch RV Park. This too was a very nice campground, paved roads, tree cover and nice people. While in Santa Fe they had another mini Chapter 29 rally, dinner out with? Yep, me (Steve), Kathy and my granddaughter Caitlyn. They continued east, or should I say, eat their way east looking for the perfect BBQ. Well the good news is, they found it everywhere they stopped. The awesome news is they were able to complete their summer travel plans and they really like their almost new SUV. Keith stated, "The Martins plan to update the blog they started, and bogged down on while on their trip." When they finish it, Keith will send out the URL (address).

Terri Wirtz

Submitted by: Jim Jackson

Chapter 29 and all Escapees are extremely saddened for the sudden passing of Joe Wirtz, Terri's beloved husband. He had battled duodenal cancer for two years. He was cremated and was sent to their crematory niches in Milwaukee. They did not have a funeral but was planning a memorial service in his hometown of Fond Du Lac in early August when they had planned to be there for a family reunion. The funeral home that handled everything was Austin & Barnes of Boone NC.

The following is an email from Terri dated early July 2013:

"I will be leaving 7/8/13 for a 5-6 week (+/-) trip to the Midwest (Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin). The reasons for my trip are multi-fold. My husband and I had planned this RV trip since last winter (originally more extensive, but this was the body of the trip). Joe's niece is getting married in Ohio July 13 so I plan to be there for that; then on to friends in Indiana, my family (and an annual reunion) in Iowa City, then up to Fond du

Lac, WI, Joe's hometown, where another family reunion had been in the works and now we have added a Memorial Service for Joe on Aug. 5. If any of you happen to be in NE Wisconsin, you are welcome to come to the Service. Let me know, for particulars.

Joe & I spent 10 years on the road with a fifth wheel (larger than our current one), I have driven and maneuvered in many places, but have not had a lot of practice backing into campsites. Well, Joe had to learn how to do that too at one time. I have also had only one solo experience at a dump station (isn't that the man's job?!!!), but it went well. Better than a couple Joe had to deal with over the years. I think I can manage.

As mentioned, I currently plan to be back in NC about the 2nd weekend in August. I will stop in Ohio for a week, staying at Campers Grove RV Park in Hopewell, OH to help my sister-in-law pack in preparation for a move to SC. Then home. After that, redesigning my life. Joe and I collaborated on an article that appeared in an Escapees magazine back in 2008 or 2009. (I can't put my hands on the issue right now to get the date). It was about RVing with cats. We also wrote "travelogues" that went as emails to family and friends all the years we were on the road and everyone told us we should publish them. They weren't in publishable format (more like a running blog) and we have never gotten around to reformatting them. Perhaps now....???

Love and hugs. Terri"

A Summer to Remember

Submitted by: Bob & Debby Seaver

From SKP ACRE we headed north to Elkhart, IN to have a residential refrigerator and computer desk installed our 2007 Monaco Diplomat motorhome. We had a small problem getting there when the motorhome died and had to be towed. Fortunately it was just a serpentine belt. In Elkhart, we went to the RV Hall of Fame. Then we went to Holland, Michigan and saw the Tulip Festival. Next was the Henry Ford Museum in Detroit. Next we went on to Tahquamenon Falls on the upper peninsula of Michigan. Then to Mackinac Island where we saw the Grand Hotel, the little stone church and a carriage ride and the Lilac Festival. Drove to Bemidji, MN to see the head waters of the Mississippi River. We also saw Paul Bunyon and Babe.

On our way to Gillette, WY we had more mechanical problems. Needless to say it was a very long ride! So, at the FMCA rally in Gillette, they had new motorhomes for sale, and Bob talked me into trading! I can't believe we did it, but we did. We now have a new 2014 Itasca Meridian 42E motorhome. We have been busy looking at the new units, then once we picked one out we had to move all our stuff from one to the other! You can't begin to imagine how much STUFF you can collect and pack into a motorhome over the last 4 years! It was a huge job, but now we are all set.

At ESCAPADE we both volunteered for the parking crew. Then we went on to Custer State Park and Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. We saw the Corn Palace. We stopped in Blue Earth, MN and saw the Jolly Green Giant. Then to Forrest City, Iowa for the Winnebago rally. Next we drove south of Denver for upgrades to the new motorhome and then home to South Carolina to spend time with family. We had plans to attend the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena until learning of a serious operation for our son-in-law.



The Tales of Newbees - Steve & Dianne Wood

The following is an email from Dianne:

"We purchased our Class C RV from Tom Johnson, Concord, NC in March 2013. The Marion Rally this past weekend was our very first camping "adventure". We quickly found new friends with SKPs and joined (Escapees and Chapter 29) during the weekend. We learned "A LOT" from the SKP members who were very friendly and more than willing to share information and answers to our many questions. This was a wonderful weekend and we hope to see our new friends in the near future. We are looking forward to reading the newsletters for Chapter 29. We have been boating people for a long time.

I retired from Procter and Gamble 6/30/12. Steve has been retired for about 15 years - did some carpenter work on the side for a while."

During the summer, Dianne also had a knee replacement and is doing great. She now joins the elite group of Escapee "Bionic Women".

Organized Chaos

Tales from Kathy Wheale & Bob Cathey

Submitted by: Kathy Wheale

We were so exhausted from working 1month every day to get the house in Greenville, SC ready to sell, and we knew we needed to get away. Bob mentioned he'd love to go back to Alaska on a "cheap" cruise with last minute fares. So I immediately went into "travel concierge" mode and had my travel agent forward last minute Alaska cruise fares on Celebrity--one of our favorite cruise lines. Since I worked for a European Cruise line for several years, and as a cruise specialist before that, I knew how to read the codes for the fares. I found one leaving in 2 weeks, and we left Greenville 6/13 for 10 days. Flew to Anchorage, spent 1 Night, then had a wonderful small motor coach tour to Seward the next day. Bob and I had cruised in Alaska before, and wanted different cities and ports. We used Delta Sky miles points for free airfare, so the total trip was less expensive than most local families spend going to the beach for a week! It was gorgeous weather--70's most days, and sunny--which is VERY unusual for Alaska. We basked in the great meals and slept a lot, then rented cars at the ports, and explored on our own, since we'd already done the tourist sites. Saw lots of eagles, and enjoyed watching all the fishing boats in the bays since it was peak salmon season. We're ready to stop living in our RV! It's been Very convenient not to have to make the bed in a hurry every day, or clean up the kitchen in the house, but we've become quite cluttered, with papers in stacks on the dining table, and boxes of files in the corners. We have a full hook-up, so it's an asset in the potential sale of the house. We just stay here when we have a showing, after we turn on all the lights and open the curtains

in the house. Yesterday I worked for the first time at a Habitat House Build, helping put the finishing touches on a new house. I got a call from the showing service asking if an agent could show our house in 1/2 hr. So glad Bob was home and could get the house ready quickly. No offers yet, but the average time a house is listed is 120 days, and it's only been 42 days, so we shouldn't get discouraged. We had high hopes it'd sell quickly, since folks who saw it on the Internet said it looked great. Please say a little prayer we'll be ready to leave by 9/30, when our tenants have moved out of our new house in Crossville, TN. We are SO ready to live there! We won't be attending the Fall rally since we'll be in the process of moving. 10/1 is actual date we can get into the house. Glad there is a very good RV campground just 3 min. from the house, Just off I-40. We've had so much rain the lakes are above flood level! Last year we were in a severe drought and most the lakes were too low to put our boat in at the few docks with long launch ramps. This year we've been so focused on being home for showings we haven't used the boat. Bye for now- Kathy and Bob

Where's Bailey? (and Mary and Andy too?)

Submitted by: Mary Brown

Since the ACRE Rally in North Carolina, we have been making our way across the whole US to Gillette, WY, for the Escapade. And what a great rally it was too! Outstanding seminars, wonderful entertainment, and super social activities. Even the weather cooperated for us.

One thing we noticed about the Escapees Rally is that everyone is amazingly friendly. We have been at other organization's rallies where this was not the case. Here, there was lots of laughter, tons of hugs, and the chapters all made each of us feel wanted and special. One came away thinking, "Gee, I'm glad I was there."

One day it was 90+ degrees and Bailey has found exactly where the air conditioning comes out and hits the floor tiles on the motor home. And that is where he can be found most of the day.

Where are we? In western Colorado in a teensy town called Olathe near Grand Junction. Why? Well, because this is one of those great campgrounds and well-kept secrets. It is age-restricted (you gotta be 55+) to stay here. What else makes it a great campground? Activities like morning coffee-hour and evening cocktail hour? Everyone brings what he or she would like to drink and most of the time someone brings a snack. I love the camaraderie. For us readers, there's a library in the laundry room. The sites are huge with full hookups and have shade trees on each. So this 90 degrees is not really a problem.

Uncompahgre River Adult RV Park
Church Ave.

Olathe, CO
970-323-8706

While there we went to see the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Now that's one of nature's amazing wonders! The first time (and every time since) that I saw it, it took my breath away. It's as spectacular as the Grand Canyon.

From Olathe, CO we headed for Denver for a family reunion. My siblings and I do our reunions away from anyone's homes. That way no one has to clean house or feel guilt if they don't do the cooking. Takes away the stress!

I hope to see every one of you at the fall rally. And I fervently hope our weather between now and then and wherever you may be is peaceful and pleasant.

In Search of a Perfect Site

Submitted by: Mary Brown

And how do I define a perfect site? Well... Start with a river flowing gently past your site(at nights it's fun to watch the barges passing on the river).Your site is concrete (and has W&E). Around the corner in the campground is a beautiful nature and history museum. AND if you have a golden eagle card, it's half price (like \$11 per night). Where is this great site? Whitten Park in Fulton, MS.

It is one of six Corps of Engineers campgrounds along the Tennessee-Tombigbee River, which runs all the way from northern Mississippi to the gulf coast. There's a park about every three hours.

One of the fascinating stops along this route is on the Alabama/Mississippi border at Aliceville, AL. There we discovered a most unusual museum – it is dedicated to a prisoner of war camp where the German POWs were kept during WWII. I was aware that there had been multiple prisoner of war camps all over the US. However, while I knew these camps existed, I had never seen a museum about them. This is great stop for your trip.

CAMPGROUNDS, Good and Bad

And Then There's a Campground to Be Wary of

Submitted by: Mary Brown

While in search of a cool campground for the summer, we wound up in Vermont and headed for Ball Mountain Lake. There we headed for a Corps of Engineers park: Winhall Brook.

When I called and asked if they had a site that would fit our 40' motor home, it was the wrong question. Yes, they had several sites that met our requirements. But the question I should have asked was, "Can we get to that site easily?" It turned out that to get to these sites, we would have to cross the river on an extremely narrow bridge. But that's only a small part of the problem. The real problem is turning the corner to get onto the bridge. Our motor home definitely will not turn on a dime. More likely on a dinner plate! And there's not room to turn and approach the bridge. Yes, we finally made it after what seemed like hours of working and having help from half the park. Needless to say, there's a note in my Corps directory to avoid this park in the future.

Campground Research

Submitted by: Kaye Hines

We have done a little research camping this trip. When we left Marion we went to West Point, SC, near Clemson. It was only a 200+ mile trip down the Cherokee Foothills Highway. The drive was really pretty. We had heard the campground was a nice place and that you could store your camper there and have them set it up when you decided to come back to town. Wrong!

- We had camped here, Crooked Creek Campground, when it had first opened. We thought then it had no character and was rather unfinished looking.
- It is still unfinished looking.
- For what it offers, it is expensive--gravel sites, limited cable channels, no internet hookup.
- It is on a lake with a marina attached. It could really be pretty, but there is no landscaping at the sites. The whole campground is built on a hill, but the sites were relatively level.
- We used their cable hookup. Every few minutes a message covered our TV screen telling us to pay our dish payment. The campground apparently had not paid their monthly fee. We reported this message to the office. The response was that the owner did not live at or near the campground but the worker was sure the bill had been paid. Nope, don't think so.
- The water pressure was extremely high. You need a regulator.

- The rest rooms and showers were clean. They had a pool and really nice pool facilities.
- They will set up motor homes, if you store them there. You can store for \$1.19 a day paid by the quarter.
- We felt that this place lacked the warmth of even a Walmart lot. Too bad.

I became disenchanted, shall we say, as soon as we checked in. They handed us a list of rules. Some of them were pretty snarky. "We rely on common sense. If you do not have any, we will think for you" or something to that effect. After rereading this I am even more disappointed in the campground. It has such potential, but I get the feeling the owners do not really care. On leaving there, we camped at West Point Lake, Corp of Engineers Park in West Point, Georgia at R. Shaefer Heard Park. It is absolutely gorgeous. We are parked right at the lakeside with a deck that extends a few feet over the lake. The sites are big, where we are is 50-amp service, no sewer hook up. You can use your Golden Age Pass and get really reduced rates. We are about 5 miles from I-85.

We are close to Warm Springs (about 30 miles), Pine Mountain, and Calloway Gardens. We were only going to stay 2 days but we have extended for at least another day. Roosevelt's Little White House is a good stop and the best place to eat is a small restaurant called Dinner's Ready only open from 11 to 2:30. Pine Mountain has some really cute shops and a bakery or maybe two. Today we are going to Calloway Gardens.

The campground has a day use area, but no shelter in the camping area. The visitor's center has information on the dam. I would come back here for a 14-day stay anytime the driver wants to bring me back. It is quiet and peaceful and about 10 miles from Walmart in Valley..I am not sure if Valley is in GA or AL. Next stop, Alabama.....

Letter from Escapee Member

Hi Jim (Jackson),

We enjoyed ACRE and wanted to thank everyone for the being friendly especially chapter 29 for their hospitality. We have been members of Wisconsin Badger chapter 49 since 2001 but have not been active because we have been working until this April. We will look forward to seeing everyone again as soon as possible. We have started a web based travel journal if anyone is interested in following us check out our web page.

<http://www.airtreks.mytripjournal.com/currier2013>

Terry & Sharon Currier SKP 66377

USA TRIP REPORT

Submitted by: Les and Denese Nicholson

Port Macquarie, Australia

The following is from Escapee members Les and Denese Nicholson. We first met them at SKP ACRE, 2011. We, as many others, became instant friends. For those that know them, love them. They have promised a follow up on their 2012 USA trip report to the western National Parks. Good Lord willing and the creeks don't rise, they plan a third USA trip to Alaska. Their motorhome is stored in California awaiting this trip.

Being committed motorhome travelers in Australia it was not difficult for us to make a decision during 2010 to travel to America the following year and purchase an RV. Our intention was to return a few times and experience different parts of the country over a period of years. During the planning stage we organized a five year multi visit visa, a USA bank account, and spent many hours of internet research for all types of information as we did not know anyone in the country to ask for assistance. By far the wisest thing we did during this period was to join the Escapees RV Club as it is through the club that we have had some of our most memorable experiences.

Our first week was spent in Los Angeles doing tourist things and looking for a suitable RV. Learning to drive our rental car on the right hand side of the road in Central LA was a bundle of fun. Thankfully it came with a GPS and we have not been without one since. We bought a 28 foot C Class RV from a private seller and are very happy with it.

We arrived in Los Angeles in mid-January. OK, first mistake. The belief that if we stayed south we would avoid the worst of winter proved to be a fallacy. We, who had virtually never even seen snow in our lives would soon find ourselves in a freezing RV with all liquids frozen solid and warm museums and other attractions seeming very inviting.

Our first destination was Quartzsite. We stayed about a week, most of it with new friends we met at Palm Springs Wal-Mart while stocking up our rig. This was an eye opener for us as we had always thought that an RV rally of 1000 or so units was a big event. From Quartzsite we kept heading east with our sights set on Livingston TX as we felt confident we would find it easiest to transfer the registration and title of the RV into the names of a couple of wandering foreign tourists with the help of the good name of the RV Club in this area. This proved to be correct.

The trip across to Livingston was certainly memorable, mostly because of the freezing winter weather, but we also visited Yuma, Tucson, El Paso and Fredericksburg along the way. Most importantly, in Deming NM with the I-10

virtually closed to traffic and snow all around us we finally worked out how to make the furnace work. As for all those frozen funny liquids, they will melt later won't they?

Our visit for 'a couple of days' to Livingston turned into two weeks of great fun socializing with new friends and travelling around the local area enjoying the sights. The park was in high gear with people from all over the country in the south looking for some warmth, but not finding a lot of it. We finally had to travel on so pointed the RV in the direction of New Orleans to arrive in time for Mardi Gras.

Arriving in central New Orleans at Mardi Gras time with no accommodation arranged might seem daft to many people, but we found ourselves about half a mile from the French Quarter and pulled into the parking area of a small group of shops to look at a map. The proprietor of a florist shop came out to assist us with directions and within ten minutes we had arranged to boondock in the carpark for four nights, about 200yards from the parade route where he had a private enclosed area with seating for us. The wonderful acceptance of an Australian accent in the USA never ceases to amaze us.

After the Mardi Gras we continued east around the bayou country and the Gulf of Mexico, experiencing the results of Hurricane Katrina, knowing in our hearts that this was five years after the event but so much still visible. We stayed about five days at Summerdale AL. Rainbow Park before continuing into Florida. We will never forget arriving in Destin. The afternoon sun glistening on the water as we crossed the bridge into town was spectacular. After spending a couple of nights at Summer Oaks at Bushnell we crossed over to the east coast and followed the highway through Orlando. At nearby Kissimmee we were stopped one morning in a shopping centre carpark and decided to make a cup of coffee in the RV while we worked out our shopping list. We noticed a parking/health inspector pull up nearby and busy himself with his pen. He then knocked on our door and told us we were habitating in a vehicle and must cease and desist and move on within two hours. Denise of course decided to go into the store to buy a hat which she still wears and we left. Certainly the inspector was probably happy to have created some paperwork and rid his area of some devilish RV people.

We went to Cape Canaveral and visited the shuttle launch site hoping to see the second last launch of the series, but a series of delays made that not possible. A short notice booking on the Freedom of the Seas saw us spending seven days visiting Caribbean destinations. This was a lovely break from the RV which taught us that a good break every few months when long term travelling is very beneficial.

Our travels took us down the Florida coast, through the middle of Miami and continuing south all the way down through the Keys to the end of the road at Key West. What a lovely holiday atmosphere was everywhere in this area which made it difficult to turn north again. In the everglades we took a wonderful ride on an airboat viewing alligators and camped overnight on the premises. We drove on through central Florida and up to Georgia and South Carolina heading for our intended destination of Marion NC to join the Escapees RV Clubs All Chapters Rally East (SKP-ACRE). We did not know it at the time but we now look back at this rally as one of the two great highlights of this trip, the other being our nine day journey along the Blue Ridge Parkway after the rally.

We were early arrivals for the rally at the Tom Johnson RV centre and were welcomed warmly. Denese was given a job of 'meet and greet' which was a great introduction to many of the participants. We do not tow a car but were taken to the Biltmore tour and some evening meals by new friends, and tried to get involved in as many activities as we could. The Smartweigh scheme operated by Mark Nemeth was very interesting for us as we have similar overweight and weight distribution problems in Australia. The evening talk by a National Parks Ranger about the Blue Ridge Parkway would set us off after the rally in that direction. We were a little early in the year for the campgrounds and spent most of our nights in the rest areas. This is a fantastic drive and we often mention it as a must do to people contemplating coming to the area. After completing the Parkway we set off on a big circular route which would take us to the Outer Banks and Kitty Hawk and back around to Charlotte NC just in time for the NASCAR Coca Cola 600 race.

Our week spent at the car races was a lot of fun. Our neighbours in the casual camp area where we stayed took us out touring the race team workshops, and there was always something happening at the track. The free bus service that operated from the campground to the track was old school buses driven by old race car drivers who sped past each other at great speed on a road that was only one and a half buses wide.

From Charlotte we went north again heading for Washington via Petersburg and Richmond VA, visiting some civil war sites on the way and really enjoyed learning more about this period. On arrival in Washington we went directly to Cherry Hill RV Park which had been recommended to us. It was an ideal place for us with a bus leaving at 7am every morning direct to Union Station for transfers to tours to all areas, with a return service to the RV Park at 5pm. We also made extensive use of the hop on, hop off city tour buses to visit the monuments and museums, but unfortunately we were 'museumed out' and eventually left Washington after two really enjoyable weeks knowing we would be happy to come back another time.

In New York we stayed at Liberty Park Marina in New Jersey with views across the Hudson River to Manhattan. A short walk took us to the train under the river to 34th street. It was all so convenient and we spent seven days walking miles and taking buses all over the city to different attractions. Finally on our last day the clouds cleared from around the Empire State Building and we were able to enjoy the views. We also did an open top bus tour of Brooklyn; those buses must be great when there is not a downpour in the middle of your tour.

From New York we continued north past Boston (our new Boston friends were away enjoying themselves elsewhere), and had a wonderful July 4 and parade in a small town in Maine before continuing on to Arcadia National Park, where we stayed for four days and walked Bar Harbor enjoying an occasional ice cream.

Our next destination would be Lake Ossipee in NH where we were made most welcome by new friends from the SKP-ACRE rally. They had done a similar thing in Australia about eight years earlier and had fond memories of their time there. We certainly enjoyed their company and hospitality but of course had to move on. They were booked into a rally at Burlington VT about ten days later so kindly arranged for us to attend as non-member guests and we re-joined them on the road and travelled with them, via Ben and Jerry's ice cream factory.

After the rally we caught the ferry across Lake Champlain heading to Niagara Falls. We arrived about 9am one morning and were surprised to have RV parking just a couple of hundred yards from the guard rails. After spending most of the day and riding the Maid of the Mist we moved on. We went through Pennsylvania and West Virginia into southern Virginia and the town of Abingdon where more new friends from SKP-ACRE awaited us. We parked in their backyard while they showed us their area for about four days. We had the most wonderful time and left with great memories.

Next it was on to Nashville and the Grand Old Opry, we toured the town and enjoyed some wonderful country music before joining the northern end of the Natchez Trace and following it for about 150 miles before turning off to Memphis where we camped at Graceland for three nights and did all the tourist things.

It was time to be making serious preparations to journey home to Australia so we set our sights in the direction of Livingston TX for a return visit to Rainbows End to revisit some friends. It was late August and the park was much more subdued but we had a restful visit and then went north towards Dallas where we had arranged covered storage for the RV and a flight out in early September.

We had spent nearly eight months in the USA, travelled about 15,000 miles and visited many memorials, museums and some of the finest natural attractions on this earth. The wonderful acceptance by everyone we met was exceptional and there was not a person that we met that we would not like to meet again (okay,

maybe one). We look forward to returning in 2012 when we will spend most of our time visiting the National and State Parks in the west of the USA.

Chapter 29 Membership

We invite all Escapee members to join The Carolina Rovers, SKP Chapter 29. If you wish to receive a membership application, send an email to Keith Martin, Officer-at-large, at [REDACTED] and he will respond to your email with an application attached.

Chapter 29 Dues

Chapter 29 dues are currently \$5.00 annually (or \$10 for two years) and are due on Dec 31st of each year. Any new member who joined before June 30 of the calendar year will be paid through the end of that year, but will owe dues for the next year. New members who joined after July 1st are paid through the next calendar year. Checks for dues should be made out to "Escapees Chapter 29" and sent to Terri Wirtz, Treasurer, SKP Chapter 29, 1244 Woodland Church Rd., Wake Forest, NC 27587

FOR SALE

- ❖ 2004 Holiday Rambler Admiral with 2 slides, 30 foot Class A, gasoline with 25,000 miles. It is in excellent condition. I am asking \$36,000. Tel. 828-226-9675, email [REDACTED] My best to all Chapter 29 members. Joan Robertson
- ❖ Diamond plate, fifth wheel toolbox for wide bed pickup. Center cut out like fifthwheel tailgate. Mounts in back against tailgate. Like new condition. \$150 James Jackson, SKP 16911, email: [REDACTED] Tel. 276-608-6385
- ❖ 5th Wheel RV hitch, Husky Adjustable EZ Roll. 7054 5th wheel hitch, 16,000 lb. max gross trailer wt., Great for *short wide bed*, (no rails – purchase to fit your truck), Excellent condition, Reduced to \$200. James Jackson, SKP 16911, email: [REDACTED] Tel. 276-608-6385
- ❖ 5TH WHEEL RV & F-350 PACKAGE - \$66,750 or will sell separately. (Selma, NC). A 2008 Jayco Designer 35 RLTS, special order. Many optional equipment add-on's. 2007 F350, dually, diesel, less than 40,000 miles.

FYI: this is a friend of Jim & Linda Jackson and this is an absolutely beautiful RV just made for the full timer but to date has been minimally used. Tel. 919-880—9162,

[REDACTED]

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Rally Masters – September 2013

Bobby Ward



Keith Martin



www/escapees.com

Here are some links to other SKP Chapter Websites.

<http://midatlanticchapter20.weebly.com/>

<http://northeastchapter3.weebly.com/>

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