

the **S★M★A★R★T** **TRAVELER**



Published Bi-Monthly for Members of the SPECIAL MILITARY ACTIVE-RETIRED TRAVEL CLUB

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2012



IN THIS ISSUE

**SPECIAL OFFER
FOR NEW MEMBERS**

**2012 CARAVANS
BOOKING UP FAST!**

**VOTE!
VOTING BALLOT INSIDE**



Never Forgotten...

The 2011 Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Caravaners were treated to many spectacular colorful balloons from around the world. A favorite of our Veterans each year is the POW/MIA balloon. This photo is of one of two POW/MIA balloons (sponsored by the American Legion) prominently featured at one of the nightly "Balloon Glows." During a "Glow," which lasts a couple of hours, balloons do not actually fly. Pilots just inflate their balloons to an upright attitude so that spectators can walk among them. Its truly a unique "up close and personal" family experience.

During this 2012 Christmas and New Year's Holiday Season, this photo gives us veterans pause to remember those veterans who have yet to come home, those who gave their lives for our country and all its citizens, and those now deployed in harm's way, and to remember the significant contributions of their families.



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Call Melissa at HQ to place order.



On The Cover

Scenes from the 2011 Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta.
For a full recap of the Fiesta, see the caravan reports in this month's issue.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year Everyone, hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and looking forward to a prosperous New Year. As we all get ready to plan our travels for the upcoming year I ask that you consider some of the many caravans SMART has to offer. This year's caravans promise to be exciting, rewarding and a variety to choose from. Additionally, now is not too early to start making plans to attend this year's National Muster being held in the RV Capital of America, Goshen, Indiana. This muster definitely will be one to remember, plenty to do, see and will not soon be forgotten. I hope to see many of you there for this great muster. In closing I would like to report to you that our "CLUB" remains financially stable and our membership numbers though not great seem to be holding steady. Our retention and recruitment efforts along with the fun and camaraderie should be our number one priority. Have a great year, take care.



David Weis

David Weis

SMART National President 2011 -2012

RECRUITING NEWS

Good Day SMART Travelers, my name is Eden "Ed" Moyer and I have been selected to be your National Recruiting and Retention person for this current year. May I say that I have accepted this position with great expectation. I finished out my military career doing this type of work and had two Executive Director Positions in Charlotte County Florida doing the same. So I do have some experience.

I will not in any way interfere with the present recruiting effort which is needed to secure those who we know are qualified to become members of our organization. However, I have learned a long time ago that the more the general public knows about an organization the faster that organization will grow. SMART Ladies, you are going to be involved to a great extent in this effort and I feel you will enjoy your challenge. More on this later, with a target date of the first of the New Year as a kickoff point. At the same time I hope we will have in place a positive retention plan.

One very important request, PLEASE send me your ideas or things that you have used to gather new members. One of our members is already doing this and his comments have helped me greatly. Remember this is OUR SMART Travel Group, not mine or yours. So let's work together to accomplish OUR Mission of making our Group the best we can for retired and honorably discharged vets.

Eden "Ed" Moyer

National Recruiting and Retention

THANK YOU FOR STOPPING BY NATIONAL HQ & VISITING WITH US!

David & Jackie Weis, Merle & Bev Dodge, Mike Schmitz, Lamar Enfinger, Tom Dillon, Chuck & Carol Kuzma, Sally Kavanaugh, Rusty & JoAnn Sturm

FROM THE FIRST VP

As we welcome the New Year, we look forward to all those new adventures we have been thinking about over the Holidays. Now is the time to put those thoughts into a plan of action for 2012. At the top of that list should be those SMART activities that have been on the back burner while waiting for warmer weather. In the spring are the Regional Musters that provide a great way to reconnect with the folks in your area of the country. Regional Musters provide a destination that is a reasonable distance from your home base. Next on the list would be the National Muster in Goshen IN, the home of the RV industry. Looking for a new RV or those hard to find RV parts, then Goshen/Elkart is the place to find them. Indiana will be the place to be in 2012 to discover all that SMART has to offer. Then there are those much anticipated Caravans throughout the country. Bargain prices make them an affordable way to enjoy guided group travel. Membership offers to new members joining SMART and to those spouses that want a voice in our club are also being offered. Vote to make your voice heard. Shop the SMART Store for those items that let people know you're SMART. All this and more are detailed in this issue of *The SMART Traveler*. So, safe travels to all of you as we bid goodbye to 2011 and welcome in a brand new year of travel.



Chuck Kuzma

Chuck Kuzma

First Vice-President

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012

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YOUR DIRECTORS & STAFF

Working Hard for "YOU"



David Weis



Chuck Kuzma



Larry Sockwell



Christian Eck



Melissa Wade



Stan McKay



Dale Hertzfeld



Bob Knight



Jon Katin



Larry Pousson



Don Daniel



Pat Kavanaugh



Melina Stefovich



Paul Rider



Phyllis Enfinger

APPOINTED POSITIONS

National Travel Coordinator

Doug Harrell • bigkuputa@yahoo.com

National Chaplain

Paul Rider • afchap@gmail.com

National Historian

OPEN

National Military Parks Coordinator

Dale Hertzfeld • dalnglor@yahoo.com

National Photographer

Don Daniel • honneyman@pldi.net

National Safety & First Aid

OPEN

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Ed Moyer • edensplace@yahoo.com

National Spouse Advisory Committee

Sally Kavanaugh • ladysallyk@msn.com

National Active Duty Advisor

OPEN

DISCLAIMER

Information provided to SMART Members from another SMART Member as a service, at no charge, should not be considered legal advice. The Special Military Active Retired Travel Club (SMART) is not responsible for the accuracy of such information. Articles submitted may be edited for clarity, brevity and content.

TOTAL MEMBERS TO DATE: 1580

(These numbers change on a daily basis as new members join, some reinstate or some members delete)

Joined 28
Reinstated 6
Deleted – Non-Pmt 32
Deleted – Other 2
Inquiries 5

TRAVELER - Seeing the Country We Defend

S*M*A*R*T - SPECIAL MILITARY ACTIVE-RETIRED TRAVEL CLUB

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WELCOME & CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS AND THEIR SPONSORS

#	Member & Spouse	City, State	Sponsor
13382	Kirk Greiner (Jackie)	Edmonds, WA	J Anderson
13383	Gerald Wolverton (Lorese)	Madison, MS	W Blansfield
13384	Gary Constantine (Brenda)	Plano, TX	R Powers
13385	Gary Baecker (Linda)	Emery, SD	D Miller
13386	Tommy Hoffman (Pat)	Madison, MS	R Axtell
13387	Lynne Setchell (James)	W Palm Beach, FL	J Setchell
13388	Janet Dedon (Fleming)	Loranger, LA	F Trosclair
13389	Chester Drobinski (Nila)	Tucson, AZ	B Bennett
13390	George Jackson (Wynama)	Tuscola, TX	
13391	Miguel Torres (Maria)	Seffner, FL	M Dodge
13392	Ida Annarumma (Joseph)	Branford, FL	J Weis
13393	Harold Jaeke (Carol)	Colorado Springs, CO	
13394	Grant Hayden (Barbara)	Kingsville, MD	O Kendrick
13395	Albert Cushman (Kathleen)	Hereford, AZ	B Bennett
13396	John Lang	Marietta, GA	C Newton
13397	Charlotte Musgrove (Melvin)	Thomasville, GA	A Haynes
13398	Hilda Brown (Ralph)	Valdosta, GA	A Haynes
13399	Bonnie Gorman (James)	Orange Park, FL	J Gorman
13400	Wesley Butz	Oakdale, MN	D Hart
13401	Richard Beil (Cathy)	Gatesville, TX	B Knight
13402	Stanley Forest (Gean)	Mesa, AZ	W Roberge
13403	Ronald Erieg (Patsy)	Lucedale, MS	A Glazier
13404	Steven Cohn	Bridgewater, NJ	N Stephens
13405	Fred Adkins (Barbara)	Sioux Falls, SD	N Stephens
13406	Barbara Adkins (Fred)	Sioux Falls, SD	N Stephens
13407	Patrick Omara (Barabara)	Crestview, FL	B Samuels
13408	Edward Fisher (Joan)	Zephyrhills, FL	D Kelly
13409	Douglas Hogan (Carol)	New Port Richey, FL	D Kelly

FREE MEMBERSHIP!

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS

RECRUIT 5 NEW MEMBERS

and you get a **free year membership**
in S*M*A*R*T!

*So be sure to put your member number
on the application as the referral member!*

A Thank You Note from Warmth for Warriors...

Dear SMART Members,

Welcome to and thank you, from Warmth for Warriors. Your contributions of helmet liners, scarves, washcloths and hundreds of hats were not only appreciated but this is the largest donation of items we've ever received at one time by any group. Many thanks! You've brought much happiness and comfort to many of our service personnel.

Sincerely,
Jodi Cornwell
Board Secretary

A 12' 4" MOTORHOME AND A 10' 8" CANOPY

Refueling our motor homes, travel trailers or fifth wheels can sometimes be a challenge. You can't back up with a "toad" hooked up; backing a trailer or fifth wheel is tricky at best. Fitting one of these beasts under a station or store's overhead canopy is sometimes guesswork, especially if one does not know the overall height of what one is trying to shoehorn into a refueling lane.

We store our motor home on a military installation and nearly always pass the gas station coming or going on trips. The very first time I refueled our Class C there, I climbed on top of the rig as I entered the fuel lane to see if I had clearance. I did and I used the same lane every time. We recently acquired a larger, Class A motor home and repeated the procedure using lane 11 as it was the easiest to get in and out of. The first time in, I climbed on top and clearance was OK. Two subsequent refuelings there were accomplished with no problems.

Enroute to a recent chapter muster, I stopped to refuel and lane 11 was in use. As the signage across the canopy indicated 10' 8" all the way across, I moved to an adjacent lane believing clear-

ance was the same as lane 11. My radio antennas brushed a light fixture, as they had in lane 11 and I proceeded. Then the crunching began...I had hit a light fixture, torn it completely off and it landed on my roof. Fortunately there was no damage to my rig or topside equipment. AAFES security and the military police were notified and a police report initiated. The station manager noted I was the fourth one this year to destroy a light fixture.

Long story short, I now know how tall my motor home is and should have known as soon as I purchased it. I did note to the manager that there is an obvious difference in height across the canopy and I recommended motor homes and large trailers be banned from the facility to prevent future occurrences in case there are other dummies like me who don't know how tall their rigs are...oh, by the way, light fixtures like the one I destroyed cost \$1200.00 or so I've been told. It's been over a month and a half since I did the deed and I'm still waiting for AAFES to give me a damage assessment.

A. N. Onymous

WHO OWNS YOUR BACKYARD?

Paul Rider, National Chaplain

A man who loved to hunt bought two pedigreed Setters and trained them to be fine bird dogs. He kept them in a large pen in his backyard. One morning he saw a little Bulldog coming down the alley behind the yard. It saw the two Setters and squeezed under the fence into the pen. The man first thought maybe he should lock up the Setters so they wouldn't hurt the little dog, but he changed his mind. Maybe they would "teach that bulldog a lesson," and the Bulldog would not come into his yard again. As he figured, fur began to fly, and it was all Bulldog fur. The little intruder soon had enough and squeezed back under the fence and ran away.

But to the man's surprise, the Bulldog returned the next morning. He crawled under the fence and once again took on the two Setters. And as before, he soon quit and squeezed back under the fence. And the same thing happened the following day, with the same results.

The man left early the next morning on a business trip and returned after several weeks. On the drive home from the airport, he asked his wife what had become of the Bulldog. "You won't believe it," she said. "That little dog came to the backyard the same time every day and fought with the Setters. He didn't miss a day! And now, when your Setters hear him snorting down the alley, they start whining and run down into the basement. And the little Bulldog struts around our backyard like he owns it."

Think about that little dog taking on those two big dogs day after day after day ...how do YOU manage those pesky problems you encounter every day? Do you persistently return to them over and over until you persevere?...or do you run and hide, never to try again?

Dale Carnegie observed: "Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all." You see, size doesn't really matter all that much. In the end, it's the persistent little Bulldog that will own the backyard.

Adapted from www.lifesupportsystem.com

TAPS

(Call or email HQ for mailing address to send a condolence card.)

JOE MARK

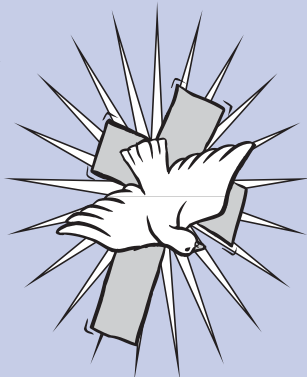
#3938, spouse of Leona Marck
St. Petersburg, FL
President of
SMART 2005-06

ELDON BIRD

#2938, spouse of Joanne
Congress, AZ

WESLEY JONES

#7736, spouse of Patsey
Vidor, TX



YOUR VOTE COUNTS

Let your voice be heard through your vote. In this issue of the *Traveler* as in the previous issue (and in subsequent issues) is a ballot to allow the spouses of all members to become Associate Members and thereby permitting all spouses to participate in SMART equally.

The voting was originally going to be closed out in March 2012 and the votes counted. Even though this is permitted by the SMART bylaws, it was felt that an out-of-cycle vote may not receive the participation that the regularly scheduled election vote receives. Factors such as the Christmas Holiday season, Snow-birds returning home and other spring activities could result in the ballot being overlooked. Therefore, the decision was made to extend the vote on this issue until the National Muster in September 2012.

As a result, the ballot will appear in the next three issues of the *Traveler*. Later in the year, the ballot for 2nd Vice-President will also be printed. Be sure to make your vote count. VOTE!

Jon Katin

Voting Committee Chair

A Report from the Road

A stop on our September – November National Muster and Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta "Out West trip" from Pascagoula, MS included a visit to Avery Island Louisiana. We traveled from Lake Charles to Baton Rouge mostly along Highway 90 E. Because we'd be "all daylight tourists," we were looking for an "overnight" campground for two nights. We found just the spot in our Passport America Book: Maxie's Campground, 4350 Hwy. 90 East, Broussard, LA 70518. Very organized, helpful, attentive, and personable "One Man Show" host is Jason Moresi. He noticed our SMART banner and told us he used to get info from SMART, but hadn't for a long while. He honors Passport America pricing, along with Escapees and others, and gets lots of short-stay RVers. Needless to say, Jason has now received our SMART Business Package.

Don't miss downtown Broussard, Jennings, New Iberia, and Abbeville, and be sure to ask the local folks where they eat. They're real friendly in South Louisiana. Additionally, check out Maxie's website for several Cajun recipes.

Jason welcomes SMART members. His E-mail is jason@maxies-campground.com. The web site is www.maxiescampground.com. We found this a really good overnight campground, as advertised, and excellent as a base to visit Avery Island and other nearby attractions. All sites are back-in, I believe. Two nights PA rate, 50A FHU, \$33.00, including taxes and state "road tax." 30A is a couple dollars less. Wal-Mart, McDonalds, and other newer stores, are right down the road. This CG is replete with beautiful old oak trees which provide a beautiful and cool umbrella for relaxing.



Don Vardell

CARAVANS AND TOURS

Through the years, I've overheard comments that seem to pigeonhole people based upon a variety of socioeconomic reasons. It seems that generalizations are made too easily about people in this hobby because of the kinds of RVs they own, their economic status, or their age. Mistake? You bet, and I think most of us are aware of that when we hear such comments. I'm very happy to say that after being on five SMART caravans this is not the case when we travel together. The only reason I bring this up is that I've been asked by members things like: is my rig too old, will my truck camper fit in with all the big rigs, do you think I'm too old, or will my wheel chair be a problem for the group?

If any of these thoughts are holding you back from joining a SMART caravan let me put your mind to rest. We drive a 1999 motor home and don't plan to change as long as it fits our needs. Connie and I have worked four SMART caravans which had everything from mini vans to 44' Class A's. We have members who travel with motorized chairs, canes, wheelchairs and even a seeing eye dog. On our second caravan, Connie was having knee problems, so we carried a wheelchair, walker, and a cane

in our rig. (The wheel chair was used by several members other than Connie.) The issues of age and health are personal decisions only you can make.

I guess what I'm trying to say is don't hold back from enjoying the best part of being a SMART member if any of the items are of concern to you. Take the time to call myself or the Wagonmaster of a caravan you are interested in joining and discuss your concerns. SMART Wagonmasters work very hard to make our caravans enjoyable for all our members. We enjoy putting smiles on your faces. So sign up for the time of your life and see the country you defended.



Doug Harrell

Doug Harrell
SMART National Travel Coordinator
bigkuputa@yahoo.com

BLAZE A TRAIL TO THE 2012 ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA AND SANTA FE

Wagon Masters: Doug and Connie Harrell
443-752-9188 • bigkuputa@yahoo.com
Cost: 2 per RV is \$1776, 1 per RV is \$1335, Guest is \$530
Dates: October 5-17, 2012

Let your imagination soar at the 41st Annual AIBF. It started in 1972 with only 13 hot air balloons! Come with us and enjoy the world's oldest aviation sport. You'll be awestruck and amazed for nine days at the mass ascensions of balloons. It's the world's premier ballooning event. The kaleidoscope of colors, shapes, and sizes from around the world make it the largest international event in the US. It's the most photographed event on Earth with a pink elephant, a stagecoach, bumblebees, a flying cow, Darth Vader and more balloons than you can count. Experience this beautiful, magical, moving picture show of balloons floating silently through the crisp autumn air in the Balloon Capital of the World.

The event line up includes the Dawn Patrol, Flight of the Nations, Balloon Glows, whimsical shaped "Glowdeo," fireworks, & entertainment. Come see the zebras in action. Experience the challenges of a chase crew. Help set up, launch, chase, and recover a balloon under the directions of the pilot and crew chief and maybe get a ride! Just ask us how! Or on your own take a hot air balloon ride with a tour company.

Marvel at the skills of the pilot in the competitions based on accuracy rather than speed. Learn about the "Albuquerque Box" and the sport of ballooning. Watch as "America's Challenge," the world's longest cross country helium filled balloon race lifts off from the Fiesta grounds and lands about 3 days later somewhere on the East Coast of the US.

We will be staying on the **Balloon Fiesta grounds during the entire Balloon Fiesta**. We have reserved 20 sites. Imagine

waking up and watching the mass ascension drift right over your RV or maybe a balloon landing right beside your RV!

We have planned continental breakfasts, socials, & potlucks along with restaurant meals. Albuquerque's Old Town has many historic museums, buildings and gift shops. Beware, taking your adventure level to new heights in Albuquerque at 5300' could cause some breathing difficulties. We will visit the Acoma Pueblo 6000' (Sky City), the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, and the AIBF Balloon Museum. We'll ride the world's largest passenger aerial tramway and enjoy the spectacular views of the land of enchantment at the top of Sandia Peak (10,376'). Travelers with chronic lung and heart conditions should check with their physicians before taking this caravan.

We're extending your Fiesta vacation with 3 nights in historic Santa Fe. It's the highest and oldest capital city in the US. The Loretto Chapel and it's "miraculous staircase" is a must-see! Enjoy the open air tram tour of the city, and all aboard for your ride on the Santa Fe Southern Railway.

Don't let this opportunity float away! Send \$260 deposit with application. The payment schedule, if available, will be included with acknowledgement letter.

*Please note at this time we will be dry camping for the first seven days with W/E for the last two days on the Fiesta grounds. We are first on the list as a group to move to the W/E sites when they become available. Fresh water delivery and waste removal are available at reasonable prices. If you come in with a full tank of water and empty holding tanks you should only need service once while in dry camping. We will keep you informed when things change.

2012 OSHKOSH EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOC. AIRVENTURE & WISCONSIN DELLS AREA CARAVAN

Wagon Master: Craig & Terilu Christen
ctchristen@earthlink.net • 931 224-8261

Asst. Wagon Master: TBD

Cost: Estimated: \$2,080.00 2-person RV; \$1,485.00 1-person RV; \$715.00 Guest

Dates: 12 July – 27 July 2012

This 16 day caravan captures the energy and awesomeness of the country's greatest experimental aircraft airshow and the fantastic sights in the surrounding Wisconsin Dells & Spring Green areas. We start this caravan at Spring Green, home of the Frank Lloyd-Wright studio & house, visiting the House on the Rock and the famous Cave of the Mounds National Natural Landmark. We'll also go to a famous Wisconsin cheese factory, Little Norway, and the Wollersheim winery. Then we travel to the relaxing (for some—not us) Wisconsin Dells where we will "Ride the Ducks" reliving an amphibious assault (on the Dells), visit the original Ringling Brothers winter quarters Circus World Museum & show, float with the Upper Dells boat tour and ride out a magnificent mile of cliff walled gorges through Lost Canyon.

After the fun of the Dells, we'll head for Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where for over 50 years the Wittman Regional Airport becomes a thrilling place where flight enthusiasts and aircraft gather for the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) AirVenture Fly-in. See superbly maintained antique,

classic and home-built airplanes – hundreds of them. Walk among them and talk with the pilots who built and fly them. Watch the extremely large formations of aircraft pass overhead in staggering numbers. There are lots of military airplanes to admire and air show performances that "fill the sky" with aircraft and spectacular pyrotechnics, air races with vintage warbird aircraft, and an unbelievable aeronautical museum. There are some of the oldest and newest aircraft to view, lots of seminars on all aspects of aircraft building & flying, and old flying movies to attend. Oshkosh brings together a greater number of aviation enthusiasts than anywhere on Earth. Visit the superb EAA aircraft museum and the 1930s styled Pioneers Airport hangars to relive the growth of aviation.

We're staying right next to the venue with hookups and shuttles to the AirVenture Fly-in. We'll see over 10,000 aircraft from 80 countries, from 240 pound microlights to the biggest airlifters and everything in between, and you may even be able to ride aboard the EAA's 1929 Ford Tri-Motor aircraft. Our tours are set up by SMART Member and Retired EAA Museum/Flight Operations Director Tom Barrett. Come experience a part of aviation history, and have a little fun also. All activities are handicap accessible and we'll have 15 nights of RV hookups.

We are currently limiting this caravan to 20 participant RVs, so sign up early! SEND \$260.00 DEPOSIT WITH APPLICATION. Payment Schedule, if available, will be included with your acknowledgement letter.

2012 ROSE PARADE CARAVAN

Wagon Master: Curt & Shirley Newton

Cost: Rig w/ 2 people \$2,125 Rig w/ 1 person \$1,200. Add'l person \$700

Dates: December 29, 2012 thru January 6, 2013

The Tournament of Roses Parade is "America's New Years Celebration." This is your chance to become one of the millions who see this spectacular event up close and personal and to be one of the first SMART members to do so.

You will begin with a welcome dinner and receive your beautiful red jacket with its embroidered white rose. The next day we will travel by luxury motor coach to Simi Valley to tour the Ronald Reagan Library and Museum. You can walk the interior of the "Flying White House" on the Air Force One Pavilion, see an exact replica of Reagan's Oval Office, see the piece of the Berlin Wall he was presented, appreciate the many artifacts, documents and personal possessions on display there and walk the grounds of the Memorial Site overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

On the way home we will stop to visit a float construction site and see some of the countless volunteers "petal pushers" covering every inch with flowers or other natural materials such as seeds, leaves and bark. On New Years Eve you will be free to use your ticket to stay as little or as long as you like at the Bandfest where the 20 plus bands who have earned their place in the parade will be strutting their stuff. Then you can visit downtown Pasadena with its restaurants and unique shops and absorb some of the excitement of the thousands "camping out" along the parade route.

We will ring in the new year at 5:30 in a local restaurant made famous by its steaks but you can also choose between jumbo charbroiled shrimp, slow roasted prime rib or Teriyaki chicken. You will need to get to bed early because tomorrow is THE DAY we are here for. You will board our bus at 6:30 for the trip to our reserved seats in viewing stands within the first half mile of the beginning. Orange Blvd. has a slight incline in front of us so everything will pass in front of you the slowest it will on the entire

route. The parade begins at 8:00 and takes a little over two hours to pass then you will re board our bus for a wonderful buffet lunch. After lunch our bus will take us to the Post Parade viewing location where you can WALK AROUND all the floats at arms length and take pictures from every angle and be able to fully appreciate the incredible design, details and colors. And that will end our "most excellent day."

The next day will be yours to do with as you will and there are dozens of things to choose from to suit every interest. Your welcome letter from us will detail the many choices you will have so you can make your plans. Thursday, Jan 3 will find us back on our bus for a comprehensive Los Angeles/Hollywood city tour which will include the "sign," Rodeo Drive, Sunset Boulevard, Mann's Chinese Theater, Kodak Theater (academy awards), and the world famous "Farmer's Market" with its 100 plus booths where you can make your own choice for lunch. After shopping till you drop the bus will take us to LaBrea Tar Pits and more points of interest. A star studded day of history, glitz and fun. Friday will be another free day BUT we have been talking with NBC and the Tonight Show. We were offered tickets for a Jay Leno taping THIS YEAR when they misread my email. They will not schedule this early for next year but you can be sure we will continue talking and hope and pray a day at NBC, lunch and the taping will be on the agenda. Then on Saturday, January 5 our bus will take us all the way across town to tour the Queen Mary and after lunch we will see the Aquarium of the Pacific.

We will say our goodbyes on Sunday morning over a continental breakfast and begin our trips back home that is if you want to leave. Our welcome letter will give you more options for affordable choices you can make as veterans that you may want to take advantage of since you are already in the area. When this rally was mentioned in Shawnee there was a lot of interest expressed as SMART has never done one here before. Sign up right away so you will be one of the first to go. Participation will be limited to 42 people. Price includes 8 nights camping at KOA Fairplex/Pomona which offers free WiFi, laundry, heated pool, security and your pets are welcome.

2012 MARITIMES CARAVAN

Wagon Masters: Curt & Shirley Newton
CN cell 770-853-1895 • SN cell 850-249-6954
Email: newtoncs1@yahoo.com

Assistant Wagon Masters: Jon & Nancy Katin
541-967-9131 • Cell 541-220-9276
Email: jonandnancy2@comcast.net

Cost: \$4,400 2 person, \$3,700 1 person, \$1,000 additional person plus approximately \$500-\$900 for RV ferry passage to Newfoundland (depending on length including your toad)

Dates: June 14 to August 11

If you have not sent in your deposit for this trip you need to do so right away as slots are filling up. The above dates are slightly different than previously published.

We will meet at Hanscomb FamCamp outside Boston and after a welcome dinner we will enjoy a city tour of that historic city. Our first stop will be on Father's Day at Freeport, ME so Dads get ready to shop till you drop at L.L. Bean. Then after a short drive you will be in Bar Harbor and ready to enjoy this quaint village in the afternoon and tour Acadia NP the next day.

At Calais you will cross the border into New Brunswick, Canada for our first stop in St. John. Three nights there will give us plenty of time for a city tour, see the reversing falls and maybe go to the city market, sit at a sidewalk café and appreciate the locals and their way of life. Your next stop will be at Hopewell Cape where you will stay 2 nights and experience the single most popular attraction in Canada, the 46 foot tides at the Bay of Fundy and walk on the ocean floor among the "flower pots".

Our first stop in Nova Scotia will be the beautiful seaside community of Annapolis Royal/Granville Ferry. There you can visit the first European settlement, drive to Digby for their world famous scallops, visit Fort Anne or walk through a 16th century graveyard at midnight. In the "picture post card" city of Lunenburg you can learn how they fish for lobster and may visit the Bluenose, the sailing ship on the Canadian dime, if it is in port.

In Halifax we will celebrate Canada Day, 4th of July to Canadians, and attend the world famous International Tattoo where 2,000 world class military and civilian performers will amaze and thrill you. On our city tour we will visit the Titanic Memorial and attend a reenactment at the Citadel National Historic Park. A drive to Peggy's Cove will delight all your senses with its scenery and delicious food.

In Cheticamp we will visit the Acadian Museum, the Cape Breton Highlands National Park and the famous Hooked Rug Museum. From Baddeck you will explore the scenic Bras D'Or Lake region, drive the beautiful Cabot Trail, visit the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site and the 18th Century Fortress of Louisbourg. At the Gaelic College of Arts and

Crafts you can buy the kilt you've been wanting. On to Bras D'Or to board the ferry at North Sydney for your overnight trip to Newfoundland and in to St. Johns, NL.

In St. Johns, the oldest city in North America, we will enjoy a city bus tour, visit Signal Hill the site of Marconi's first transAtlantic message and see their Tattoo. Then we will go whale watching and see the Cape Spear Lighthouse. After 4 days in St. Johns we will go up to Bonavista for 3 days to see John Cabot's boat, the famous white rock murals, the Dungeon Rock and the famous puffin sanctuary and lighthouse.

In the historic city of Twillingate we will visit the Prime Berth Fishing Museum, the Durrell Museum and polar bear exhibit, have a "Newfie" dinner and "screech in" done by the locals and hear the Split Peas live local performance. On to Rocky Harbour for 3 days to have a baked halibut dinner and visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Gros Morne National Park. This 695 sq mile site is home to some of Canada's most spectacular sights and "must see" fjords.

Then we will journey up to St. Anthony, NL where the Vikings landed in 1000 AD. We will spend 3 days visiting the Norstead Viking Village, L'Anse Aux Meadows Historic Site, the lighthouse and waterfront and have a Viking Feast in the longhouse. This is the place to have your "moose" encounter. We will go back to Rocky Harbor and on to Doyles to catch the short ferry back to Nova Scotia.

After stops at Bras D'Or and Pictou we will drive the 9 mile long Confederation Bridge to Prince Edward Island and Charlottetown. You will have 4 nights here to fully explore the eastern part of the island. Our visit there has been timed so we can attend a performance of the "Anne of Green Gables" musical play. In Cavendish we will enjoy the world famous lobster dinner on the wharf and visit "Woodleigh" the setting for the story. In Cornwall you will enjoy the Potato Museum and maybe play golf on one of the 15 or so courses.

We will move to Summerside for 3 more nights on PEI to allow you to explore the west side of the island. Then it will be back to New Brunswick and our final stop at Fredrickton. Amazing Anglican cathedrals and the colorful Changing of the Guard will top off our 59 day trip through the Maritimes.

Go to the following web sites for more information about all that awaits you on this Maritime Caravan:
www.tourismpei.com • www.newfoundlandlabrador.com • www.tourismnewbrunswick.com • www.novascotia.com

Sign up today as we are limited to 20 and several rigs were disappointed in 2011. SEND \$260 DEPOSIT WITH APPLICATION. Payment Schedule will be included with your acknowledgement letter.

S*M*A*R*T DISCOUNTS

The RV Parks listed below offer discounts to our SMART members.

Please let them know that you saw them advertised in the TRAVELER.

Check our website:
www.smartrving.org
and click Discounts for more information.

Discounts are subject to change. Please check with the campground to verify before registering.

PAYNES RV PARK

Theodore, AL
251-653-1034

www.paynesrvpark.com

DENALI GRIZZLY BEAR CAMPGROUND

Denali National Park, AK
866-583-2696

www.denaligrizzlybear.com

TOK RV VILLAGE & CABINS

Tok, AK
907-883-5877

www.tokrv.net

AUGIES QUAIL TRAIL RV PARK

Gila Bend, AZ
928-683-2850

www.augiesquailtrailrvpark.com

BROOKSIDE CAMPSITE

Cashe Creek, BC
1/205-457-6633

www.brooksidecampsite.com

SHADY GROVE WI-FI CAMPGROUND

Seibert, CO • 970-664-2218

www.shadygroverv.com

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RV RESORT

Bradenton, FL

941-758-5335

horshoerv@tampabay.rr.com

HOMOSSASSA RIVER

RV RESORT

Homosassa, FL

352-628-2928

turtlecreekrv@embarqmail.com

NATURE'S RESORT

Homosassa, FL

800-301-7880

www.naturesresortfla.com

PELICAN PALMS

RV PARK

Milton, FL

850-623-0576

www.pelicanpalmsrvpark.com

RUTLADER OUTPOST

RV PARK

Louisburg, KS

913-377-2722

www.rutladeroutpost.com

CAVE COUNTRY

RV CAMPGROUND

Cave City, KY

www.cavecountryrv.com

LAKESIDE

RV PARK

Livingston, LA

225-686-7676

www.lakeside-rvpark.com

MAXIE'S CAMPGROUND

Broussard, LA

337-837-6200

www.maxiescampground.com

2012 COLORADO ADVENTURE

Wagon Master: John & Arlene Farrell

smartrnr@cox.net • (479) 855-4778

Asst. Wagon Master: Craig & Terilu Christen

ctchristen@earthlink.net • (931) 224-8261

Cost Estimates: \$3,050 2 Per/RV; \$2,050 1Per/RV; and \$1,100 Addtl Per.

Dates: 20 May - 10 June 2012

Teddy Roosevelt described a train journey through Colorado as "the trip that bankrupts the English language." Come find out for yourself! We'll start with a welcome dinner in historic Durango. The first of many adventures will begin the next day entirely devoted to the grandest of all Colorado rail journeys on the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. While in Silverton, you can browse the many shops and have a leisurely lunch before boarding the motor coach for the return trip to Durango over the Million Dollar highway.

The next day we'll carpool to Mesa Verde National Park, land of ancient Pueblo Indians and their cliff dwellings. Then we're off to Chama New Mexico for our next journey on the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, the longest and most spectacular narrow gauge steam railroad in North America. The train will stop in Osier at an altitude of 12,000 feet, where lunch will be served before returning to Chama. The next morning we depart Chama for Alamosa to ride the standard gauge Rio Grande Scenic Railroad over La Veta Pass, where you might see deer, elk, bear and other wildlife along the way. While in Alamosa we'll visit the Great Sand Dunes National Park.

Departing Alamosa, we're on our way to the Royal Gorge,

home of the world's highest suspension bridge. Our next excursion is a ride on the Royal Gorge Scenic Railway, "the most scenic train ride in North America", where we'll enjoy a gourmet lunch. For those who want a little more adventure there will be a river rafting trip down the Arkansas River. Our travels will then take us to Colorado Springs, home of the USAF Academy. In Colorado Springs, we'll visit the Air Force Academy, Seven Falls and board the world's highest cog railway, the Manitou Springs and Pikes Peak Cog Railway, ascending to the 14,115 foot summit of Pikes Peak, which inspired the lyrics to "America the Beautiful." **(CAUTION: Some people may experience altitude sickness which may include symptoms of dizziness, nausea and headaches. In addition, if you have cardiac or respiratory problems, it is not advised that you make the ascent without first consulting your physician).**

There will be adequate time to visit the Garden of the Gods, Cave of the Winds, Broadmoor Hotel, Olympic Training Center or the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame to name a few. We'll travel up to Golden Colorado, our final stop. While in Golden we'll enjoy a tour of the Coors Brewery and Colorado Railroad Museum, home to a vast collection of priceless railroad history. For our last railroad adventure, a ride on the famous Georgetown Loop, with its horseshoe curved steel trestle over the highway. A special farewell dinner will conclude our journey.

Don't miss this scenic Colorado adventure. We are limiting the caravan to 20 rigs, so get your reservations in early. Send a deposit of \$260.00 along with your application to HQ.

2012 ALASKA CARAVAN

Wagon Master: Roger & Kaye Meyer

(580) 481-9695 • rkhandyman21@gmail.com

Asst. Wagonmaster: Bill & Kay Littell

(850) 398-0625 • mklittell@embarqmail.com

Cost: \$5385 for 2 Person RV; \$4371 for 1 Person RV; \$948 EA/ADDTL Person

Dates: Approx: 17 June-23 August.

Journey with us to the beautiful Last Great Frontier--ALASKA. We are starting the Alaska Caravan at Great Falls, Montana, on 17 June, and ending in Washington state on 23 August 2012. It will be a 67 day trip. Care will be taken to spend as much time in Alaska (32 days) as possible, but remember there is a lot of road though Canada, which is also very scenic. The Caravan will travel up the east side of the Rocky Mountains through Banff, beautiful Lake Louise and Jasper, Alberta Canada, stopping by the Columbia Ice Fields along the way. We'll start the Alaska Highway at Dawson Creek, traveling on to Fort Nelson in British Columbia, and then into the Yukon Territory through Watson Lake, Whitehorse, and Teslin. In Alaska we will spend time at Skagway, Valdez, Anchorage, Homer on the Kenai Peninsula, Denali National Park, Fairbanks and North Pole Alaska. We'll be traveling the Top of the World Highway to Dawson City, Yukon, return to Whitehorse, and then down the Cassier Highway to Jade City BC and Stewart/ Hyder, ending in Washington USA.

Plans are being made to have meals at local restaurants, group pot luck dinners, supersized cinnamon buns, cruises to some of the glaciers, shows, and tours of local city areas to local sites. A great time is being planned for everyone to really enjoy themselves, and really get to see Alaska and beautiful Canada. Travel days are planned to be short in mileage, most are less than 200 miles so you can stop and enjoy the sights along the way.

You will receive a Mile Post Magazine and an Alaska Discount Coupon Book for each RV unit to save on costs with 2 for 1 prices for a number of planned activities. You will be given Caravan jackets and other mementos for each caravan member. There will be 33 camp ground stops with lots of activities, personal leisure days, and down time. Get your camera skills ready to capture mountains, glaciers, bears, moose, caribou, salmon and other fantastic sites on this once in a lifetime caravan.

We need your reservation by 20 March 2012 to ensure we have enough participants to make this caravan GO. You can sign up your non-SMART friends. This is a very popular Caravan and is limited to 20 RVs. Send in your applications early and get your passports ASAP. Send \$260 deposit with application. Payment Schedule, IF AVAILABLE, will be included with your acknowledgment letter.

S*M*A*R*T CHAPTERS

Updates are posted on the website at www.smartrving.org

REG NE	CHAPTER	P/NAME	P/CTY	P/ST	P/E-MAIL	P/PH#
	REGION DIRECTOR	STAN MCKAY			sjmckay3@verizon.net	(609) 241-1106
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	NORTH COUNTRY	TOM HILL	BRISTOL	RI	tommy.w.hill.1@juno.com	
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	SMART SC PATRIOTS	DAVID ARROWSMITH	YORK	SC	drarrow@bellsouth.net	(803) 628-1154
	FL BUCCANEERS	DALE HERTZFELD	PERRYSBURG	OH	dalnglor@yahoo.com	(419) 260-2071
	FL SUNSHINE	STEVE JACKSON	PALM COAST	FL	cob650@hotmail.com	(386) 445-3696
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	CHATTAHOOCHEE DRIFTERS	JACKIE WEIS	KINGSLAND	GA	pesoweis@hotmail.com	(912) 729-4142
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	TRI STATE REBELS	RON REICHERT	BEAUFORT	SC	ronniereichert@hotmail.com	(843) 252-1623
	FL SPACE COAST	GARY WILSON	MELBOURNE	FL	wgary1427@aol.com	(321) 259-6704
	SMART TARHEELS	BOBBY WARD	LIVINGSTON	TX	wardsw@gmail.com	(703) 217-0210
	FL ROADRUNNERS	JAMES MCDADE	ST. AUGUSTINE	FL	djmcdade13@gmail.com	(904) 797-3320
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	MISSISSIPPI MAGNOLIAS	BOB GLAZIER	BILOXI	MS	gjpglaz@live.com	(228) 324-0154
	ARKANSAS HOGS	ANN LOWRY	EDGEMONT	AR	ramlowry@artelco.com	(501) 723-4610
	TRI STATE PANHANDLERS	TOM DILLON	PENSACOLA	FL	usafdillenjer@att.net	(850) 478-5769
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	MIDWAY USA	DONALD MCDIFFETT	ENID	OK	smartusa2010@yahoo.com	(785) 341-9115
	COLORADO ROCKIES	GARY WILLIAMS	HAYDEN	CO	cargar@springsips.com	(970) 276-3894
SMW	REGION DIRECTOR	DON DANIEL			honeyman@pldi.net	(405) 485-3694
	OK SMARTS	DANNY KING	ALTUS	OK	2kings6@sbcglobal.net	(580) 482-3114
	SMART TEXANS	GERALD DAVIS	COMANCHE	TX	geraldldavis1@verizon	(817) 964-0451
	ALAMO SMARTS	CARL HALLADA	SAN ANTONIO	TX	belccc@aol.com	(210) 627-1778
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	AZ ROADRUNNERS	ROBERT BENNETT	HEREFORD	AZ	elbob0@hotmail.com	(520) 366-0551
	SO CALIFORNIA	BOB VERNLUND	MORENO VALLEY	CA	bobandoly@verizon.net	(951) 243-3355
	SMART KOFAS	JERRY LECKRONE	YUMA	AZ	leckronerv@aol.com	(928) 345-2403
	AZ TUMBLEWEEDS	SALLY KAVANAUGH	SUN CITY WEST	AZ	ladysallyk@msn.com	(623) 910-1276
	CHAN ISL SEAGULLS	ROY ALLEN	VENTURA	CA	royallen1@juno.com	(805) 794-5666
	DIEGO CRUISERS	BRAD WYNNNE	LA MESA	CA	diego.cruisers@gmail.com	(619) 248-4841
	GOLDEN GATE	FRANK VILIMEK	MILIPITAS	CA	frankwilimek@hotmail.com	(408) 945-1634
ATLG	REGION DIRECTOR	PAUL RIDER			afchap@gmail.com	(903) 574-1217
	STAR	JACKIE WEIS	KINGSLAND	GA	pesoweis@hotmail.com	(912) 729-4142
	SMART SOLO'S	RICHARD MCGUIRE	PENSACOLA	FL	rickalmcguire@bellsouth.net	(850) 433-1249
	COMPUTER USERS	ED PATE	CECLIA	KY	callitik@hotmail.com	(270) 862-2265
	SMART FULLTIMERS	PHILLIP PETRIE	EAGLE RIVER	AK	phillip_c_petrie@peoplepc.com	(575) 405-7523
	SMART DUFFERS	DON VARDELL	PASCAGOULA	MS	donvardell@live.com	(228) 623-1197
	SMART NOMADS	CHUCK TAMBORINO	PINSON	AL	dgrandpaslove@aol.com	(602) 793-3936
	SMART TRAVELING SQUARES	JOHN FARRELL	BELLA VISTA	AR	smartrnr@cox.net	(479) 855-4778

S*M*A*R*T DISCOUNTS

(Continued)

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888-248-9080
www.musiclandkampground.com

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732-866-2448
Muriel.smith@navy.mil

**TWIN LAKES RV
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**THE OLD MILL
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www.oldmill.us

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www.nashvillecountryrvpark.com

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S*M*A*R*T DISCOUNTS

(Continued)

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512-444-6322
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972-242-6808
www.sandylakerv.com

LAKERIDGE RV PARK INC

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903-887-4212
www.lakeridgervpark.com

SOMEWHERE RV PARK

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903-564-5772
www.somewhere-rv.com

TRAVELERS WORLD RV RESORT

San Antonio, TX
210-532-8310
www.travelersworld
rvresort.com

AMERICAN HERITAGE RV PARK

Williamsburg, VA
757-566-2133
www.americanher-
itagervpark.com

Balloon Fiesta Caravan 2011

The SMART 2011 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Caravan folks had a magnificent 10 days in early October—spectacular colorful balloons and events!! When we arrived at the base, we were greeted with the Albuquerque winds. As the information packets were being passed out, we informed all participants that due to the wind, we would gather at the golf course club house for our welcome meeting and dinner where the jackets were passed out. Friday morning saw the group carpooling to the Albuquerque Museum where the group was divided into two groups. One group toured Old Town, while the other visited the museum. After the tours, an enjoyable lunch was had with time for shopping in Old Town. We all met back at the FAM camp for Social Hour. An early night was in store as



the next morning started at 0515 (group gathering) with MWR buses departing the campground at 0530 for the morning mass ascension. We arrived back at the FAM camp around 1000 giving time for lunch prior to 1300 departure for the Museum of Nuclear Science and History. Arriving back at the FAM camp, we enjoyed another social hour.

Sunday morning started with biscuits and gravy for breakfast and time was allotted for those who wanted to attend church. At 1230, we carpoled to the Balloon Museum where we were given a historical overview of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. We were joined by Jim Fordice, USN Ret, and balloon pilot who explained the workings of a balloon and how they are flown. We then ventured down to the balloon field where most of us shopped the vendors for goodies. As dusk approached, we watched the preparation for the evening mass glow and fireworks display. Monday saw a 0530 departure for the mass ascension, a visit to the Chasers Club, where we were treated to a breakfast and another fantastic launch. After a very exciting morning watching hundreds of balloons ascend into the skies, we again boarded the busses for the Acoma Pueblo (Sky City) visitor's center. Once there, we again boarded busses to be taken to the top of the mesa and a guided tour of the Acoma Pueblo. Tuesday we boarded the bus for a tour of Santa Fe, we visited the Bataan Museum, Loretto Chapel before lunch and enjoyed a guided tour of the State Capitol building before boarding the bus for the return trip. The weather gods weren't cooperating with us as it started to rain on the way back to the FAM Camp. Upon returning to the FAM Camp, we got the rigs ready to move over to the Balloon Fiesta RV Premium parking lot the next morning.

Wednesday saw the lead group depart at 0800 with the remaining rigs leaving in standard caravan order. We staged at the Sandia Casino parking lot and enjoyed a wonderful buffet. At 1300 the parking crew departed for the balloon RV lot, set up and then helped the remaining group park. A great parking crew managed to park 22 rigs in less than two hours, even with the parking area being somewhat muddy, and got ready for Social Hour. Thursday morning we had biscuits and sausage gravy. With the morning events being cancelled by more rain, many of the caravan participants enjoyed the sights of Albuquerque. We carpoled to El Pinto's for a magnificent lunch followed by a visit to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center where we were honored to have Mr. Bill Toledo, one of the Navajo Code Talkers as our guest speaker. He explained how the code was developed and how it was used during the war. Saturday saw the weather break with a beautiful mass ascension. Our farewell dinner was held at the Elephant Bar & Grill. The evening glow and accompanying fireworks were magnificent. As the Balloon Fiesta came to a close, the final mass ascension was truly an event not to be forgotten as the balloons flew overhead filling the skies, a few of the balloons even landed in the RV parking area. Goodbyes were said and we all departed this years' Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

Our thanks to the caravan participants; they made our jobs as wagon masters much easier.

John & Arlene Farrell

www.smartrving.org

REGION & CHAPTER NEWS

2011 NATIONAL MUSTER

The National Muster at Shawnee, OK was an unqualified success. The facilities were outstanding and accessible. The site personnel set up the wishes of the SMART staff exactly as instructed. The parking and registration personnel were outstanding according to the evaluations received. The food people fixed outstanding meals - 3 catered dinners, 4 full breakfasts and one ladies lunch. Approx. 175 ladies turned out for the spouse meeting and luncheon, an excellent number of ladies. The tour of the bombing memorial was favorably talked about the next day. There were 19 vendors present to show wares for your interests. I wish to thank all the people who helped the general populace have a good time. Too many times people who do the work get left out somewhere along the line. When you start naming names that happens. I know it did here also. But from the bottom of my heart I wish to thank you. Thru your untiring efforts you have made many SMART members very happy. There is one SMART member I would like to proudly expound on - that is Peggy Wilson, our finance person. She was responsible for the total money for the muster and did an outstanding job of accountability.

Donald Daniel

Regional Director, South Midwest

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL MUSTER

Springtime Extravaganza

COME ON DOWN to the Southeast Region Muster, 23-28 April 2012 (early bird day April 22nd) at Wekiviva Falls RV Resort in Sorrento, FL ...locals call the area "the Real Florida" and we've discovered the unique Wekiviva Falls for our Regional Muster Site...Rated as one of the best in Florida, you'll have 30/50 amp full hookups, with a minimum of 30 foot wide sites, so come on down and spread your wings! Sorrento is located between Daytona Beach and Orlando. Our campground is pet friendly and even has a river running through it. It also has a heated pool adjacent to the event center!

SPECIAL DRAWING

The first 50 registered rigs will be entered into a special drawing. One lucky winner will have their Muster Fee refunded at the closing ceremonies.

Register EARLY for this very special Regional Muster. Our fun Muster offers great food, entertainment, activities, vendors, seminars and tours. We are sure that you will have a great time, meet many friends and make new acquaintances.

For further information contact:

Melina LeDuc - SE Regional Director (m.leduc@att.net)

John G Tesmer - SE Regional Muster Master (johntesmer@aol.com)

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL MUSTER

Join us Arizonians' for a funtastic time at the Southwest Regional Muster in Yuma, Arizona 2 – 6 April 2012

The Arizona Roadrunners, along with the Arizona Tumbleweeds and the Arizona KOFAs will be hosting the 2012 South Western Regional Muster in Yuma, Arizona 2 through 6 April in 2012. The Muster will be held at the newly opened five star RV resort, The Palms, which is rated in the top 2% of RV resorts across America.

Each day will be filled with fun activities such as swimming, shuffleboard, billiards, chip and putt, tennis and pickle ball, craft classes, social gatherings, entertainment, and of course, good food. There will be a day set aside for those that want to go on a riverboat cruise on the Colorado River and there will be a golf tournament for the golfers out there. For those that want to visit Mexico, bring your passports; the friendly town of Los Algodones is just a short drive away. And for those that enjoy visiting military bases, MCAS Yuma is just down the road from the RV resort. There will also be door prizes, a silent auction, book sales, and craft sales.

COME ON OUT AND JOIN US!

For more information or to receive your registration form, contact the Muster Master Bob Bennett at 520-366-0551 or send an email to elbob0@hotmail.com.

ALAMO SMARTS

Several members of Alamo SMARTs attended a check presentation at the Warrior and Family Support Center at Ft Sam Houston on 21 November. Shown with Alamo's check for \$1600.00 is WFSC Director Judith Markelz and to her left is Alamo president Carl Hallada. "Momma Judy" as she is known locally thanked the chapter and indicated the check would be used to provide wounded warriors and their family members with much needed gift cards for use at local merchants in the San Antonio area. Alamo chapter members have donated over \$17,000 over the years to various military related charities as we continue to support our troops.

Steve Spear, Alamo SMARTs



Above: Alamo SMARTS present a check to the WFSC

ARIZONA ROADRUNNERS

The Arizona Roadrunners held another great muster this past October. We went to a familiar campground, the Rancho Sonora RV Park in Florence, Arizona. The turnout was a little less than what we had hoped for, but several of our members are still touring various parts of the country and haven't returned home yet.

We had ten Roadrunner members, two Tumbleweed Chapter members, and a visiting couple who joined S*M*A*R*T and our Chapter too while there. And as a bonus, the two Tumbleweed members joined our Chapter too. The Rancho Sonora RV Park is located in a picture perfect setting, close to the Casa Grande Ruins, a very popular tourist spot where some our members spent time touring.

Everyone had a great time and we're already looking forward to our next Muster in Yuma, Arizona in November. We hope to see some more visitors in the near future.

Bob Bennett

S*M*A*R*T Arizona Roadrunners



Roadrunners enjoying the Rancho Sonora RV Park

ARKANSAS DIAMONDS

It was a cold and dark night as the SMART Arkansas Diamonds sat around a toasty campfire at the Treasure Lake RV Resort in Branson, Missouri. Nearly fifty percent of the Chapter (13 rigs) attended the week-long Branson Tribute to Veteran's. Social gatherings and meals were held throughout the week and the Arkansas Diamonds led the National SMART portion of the Branson parade on November 11, 2011...11-11-11.



*Above Left: National Second VP Larry Sockwell
Above Right: The cure for a cold Missouri evening*

Three SMART Chapters took part in the parade: the Arkansas Diamonds, the Kansas Cavalry and the Missouri Mo-Hawks. We were led, holding the National "booth banner," by our own National 2nd Vice President Larry Sockwell and Bob Knight, the NMW



*Top: Members warm up next to the fire.
Bottom: Members at the Branson Tribute to Veterans.*

Regional Director. Other SMART Chapters were present in the crowds that lined the streets of Branson...it was truly a wonderful feeling to be "thanked" by thousands of folks for "our service."

During the week, the Arkansas Diamonds Chapter helped "man" the SMART National "booth" and we hopefully generated some interest and some eligible applications; lots of people stopped by to chat and ask what our organization was all about...now we just have to reel them in.

A new slate of Chapter officers was presented and elected at the Annual Business Meeting with the incoming officers looking forward to an adventurous 2012.

As a wrap-up...the Arkansas Diamonds have had a busy 2011 with five area musters, two indoor social events, great attendance at the Regional and National musters and we rounded out the year with a Christmas Toys for Tots dinner. The Chapter always welcomes guests to any of our activities...so if you are in the northwest Arkansas area, please stop by...the coffee pot is always on.

We hope you all had a safe and healthy holiday season and we will see you in 2012 in the "country we defend."

Tom Percy

President, SMART Arkansas Diamonds

SMART CAJUNS

16th Charter Anniversary

The SMART Cajuns decided to celebrate the 16th anniversary of its charter in Vicksburg, MS November 14-16, 2011. Four of the original charter members, Bert Richard, Jimmie Fay Sullivan, Jim and Maggie Highton, along with 40 other Cajun members enjoyed themselves eating great food, socializing, playing various

card games and trying out their luck at the Diamond Jacks Casino. At least two of our Cajun Members hit it very lucky at the casino while some of the other members either had moderate luck or donated to the Casino.



The hosts Bill and Geri Blansfield worked very hard to provide for this special muster and came up with various meals that included shrimp and pasta, smoked Boston Butt, chicken and sausage links, and for the final night New York Strip steaks. As usual, everyone who went to the muster groaned about eating too much, but there was so much to enjoy, no one should have gone away hungry. Two new members, Tommy and Pat Hoffman along with Gerald and Lorese Wolverton seemed to fit into the muster; especially Tommy and Pat who joined in with our Hee-Haw event Tuesday night. SMART National's 2nd VP Larry Sockwell and 1st VP Chuck Kuzma also joined other Cajun members entertaining with skits, singing and various joke performances.



Cajuns and guests at the Muster Hee-Haw event

The next Cajun muster will be in San Marcos, TX at Canyon Trails RV Park, Jan 9-11, 2012 and following that muster many of the Cajun members will do their annual trek down to the Valley to stay at VIP-La Feria RV Park for several weeks using their Passport of America discounts. This routine trip has been conducted for many years by the Cajuns and each year it seems that the group grows by several couples. Lee Fontenot has the info about the La Feria trip.

Jim and Magdalene Martin will be hosting the March muster in the Lake Charles, LA area and the dates and campground are TBA. The annual Ya'll Come will be hosted by Francis and Lynette Arceneaux again this year April 25-29 at Poche's Fish n RV Park in Breaux Bridge. Come and join the Cajuns at some of these musters and events.

SMART DUFFERS

SMART DUFFERS (Golfers) always welcomes new members, women and men. Don Vardell of Pascagoula, MS has succeeded Len Mays as the group's president. Wilford Voyles of Hanesville, KY. is vice-president, and Bill Blansfield of Austin, TX has succeeded Herb Whitfield as secretary-treasurer. The lady and gentleman golfers in this 49 member group, according to Don, are easy-going and fun loving, and their golfing abilities are wide ranging.

Historically, there've been golf tournaments at the National Musters, not necessarily organized by The Duffers, but most participants were Duffers or joined the group at the time. Joining is not required to play in the National Muster Golf Tournament.

However, greens and cart fees and a tournament fee is required for players each year, the amount subject to the usual variables.

This year The Duffers, led by Leon Smith of Florida, hope to organize at least one golf outing in addition to participating in the regular national tournament at the National Muster in Goshen, Indiana. (September 10 -15, 2012 [depart on the 15th] at Elkhart County 4-H and Agricultural Exposition, Inc., 17746 County Road 34 Goshen, IN 46528. Hosted by North Central Region, Chairman Dale Hertzfeld, Muster Master Mike Kegley: kegley@chartermi.net.) There is a trophy with winners' names engraved and it resides at National HQ in Pensacola.

Look for more golfing plans, progress and information in future SMART E-NEWS communications and directly by email to members who have provided their email addresses.

Membership costs only five bucks. This year no dues will be collected. Wilford's email address is: wilford.voyles@gmail.com and Don's is smart12843@gmail.com. Bill Blansfield's is bblansfield@juno.com. Comments and suggestions are hereby encouraged. Play golf often, have fun, and above all else, play SMART!

FLORIDA ROADRUNNERS

The Florida Roadrunners last muster of 2011, at Cedar Key RV Resort, was nothing less than a Grand Finale. Hosts, Jim & "D" McDade and cohosts, Jim & Bonnie Gorman, ushered in a mix of the Fall season and a patriot flare for Veterans Day. Tables in the large dining hall were adorned with fall foliage, small potted plants w/American flag, a scarecrow, a large platter of fresh pecans and leaf shaped candy dishes, heaped with Halloween treats. Donated gifts & door prizes were also a mix of Fall & Veterans Day. Much to the surprise of our regular membership, were 8 guest couples attending the well fed & fun filled muster. 6 couples became chapter members and the other two asked for chapter applications.



3 evening meals, prospectively, consisted of homemade chicken stew & yeast rolls, shake n bake thick cut pork chops and a beef brisket dinner, all with fixins & desserts. Our last evening meal together, the group gathered at a famous seafood restaurant to feast some more!

At one luncheon, everyone enjoyed building their own tuna subs. Here again, was plenty of fixins and a large assortment of cookies.

2 cooked breakfasts were prepared. Jim McDade & Jim Gorman cooked up eggs made to order from individual orders (taken by "D" McDade). Bonnie Gorman really had to hustle to add toast, bacon & grits to the hungry RV'ers plates. At another breakfast, in addition to regular pancakes, real Maine wild blueberry pancakes were a big hit. Our large variety continental breakfast had something tasty to satisfy everyone's palate.

Our 1st evening after dinner, some folks enjoyed the well liked movie "The Bucket List", while munching on popcorn & sipping on ice tea or lemonade. Others played their favorite card games. Another evening, "Find It", was a bit of a challenge to find miniature objects in tubes of confetti. A scorekeeper timed those participants. One evening, "Quarter" card bingo brought many hopefuls to the tables. One morning, several ladies learned how to make package gift

bows. All their creations were colorful & easily put together. One afternoon, some members were shown Money Origami, the art of folding money. The projects were simple, mind boggling at times, but fun. They included, the "X" wallet, "Mr. Bill Green", the "Eye" ring and a standing shirt. The planned 2 hour boat tour, around the outer islands in the Gulf, was canceled due to high winds.



Roadrunners enjoying the November Muster

Members were made aware of the \$200.00 donated to the USO in the Greater Jacksonville area, in our chapter's name. Those funds came from 1/2 of our total intake of 50/50 this past year. The USO provides much assistance to the military and their families coming & going at the Jacksonville International Airport. The local USO chapter depends heavily upon community support and private donations. Jim & "D" McDade were given a personal tour from the USO Airport Center Director, Jim Bury.

Dedicated chapter members, Sarah & Steve Colt were surprised, but thrilled to receive an appreciation award from Chapter President, Jim McDade & spouse "D". On the acrylic plaque was inscribed, to Sarah & Steve Colt for Perfect Attendance and Outstanding Chapter Participation for the year 2010-2011.

At the end of the chapter business meeting, a standing ovation was given to hosts, Jim & "D" for a spectacular muster. SE Region Director, Melina LeDuc and the new SE Region Muster Master, John Tesmer, took charge of a meeting of all members for the 2012 SE Region Muster. That event will take place at Wekiva Falls RV Resort in Sorrento, FL. Early Bird on April 22nd-27th, departing on the 28th. Please look for that application & other information on the SMART website.

SMART SOLO

We went to the National in Shawnee, OK and had a wonderful time. 15 members signed up for our Chapter luncheon at the Delta Restaurant in town, all enjoyed the good company and the good food.

SMART has talent and as usually happens, our chapter members shared their talents with the rest of the audience at the National.

Rick McGuire
SOLO Chapter, President

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Southern California Chapter held another great muster, this time in the deserts of California in Borrrango Springs, near the expanse of the Salton Sea (a 378 square mile salt lake). There you can see forever with majestic mountains in the background. It is great for bicycling and hiking. Steve Crowder amazed the members with his deep frying of the turkeys we had for our Thanksgiving dinner. Our Marines could not pass up a chance to celebrate the 236th birthday of the Marine Corps with birthday cake, champagne, sword ceremony, and song. HOORA!!



Top Left: Preparing Thanksgiving dinner. Top Right: Desert sculpture. Middle and Bottom: Members on a desert hike.

Many of our members chose to do the 3 mile hike to the Palm oasis in the middle of the desert and enjoyed their lunch sitting on boulders in the towering palm grove with its waterfall and stream. The hike was very eventful and definitely for the able-bodied as we crossed logs in the middle of stream, hopped rocks, and climbed boulders. All came back tired and had lots to talk about. We ate hearty and caught up on the news, as we usually do at musters, and most took the opportunity to see the strange and wonderful metal sculptures now dotting the desert.

These are the creation of Mr. Ricardo Breceda, a sculptor from Perris CA, who together with Mr. Dennis Avery, who owns much

land in the desert, are setting up more and more of these whimsical delights. Both of these men are obsessed with the age of dinosaurs and magical beasts. At present there are 175 sculptures and more added each year. The sculptures can be approached by car and are a must see for everyone. You can get a view of the sculptures at www.galletameadows.com.

Other members enjoyed shopping the little town, geocaching the local area, and of course we mostly enjoyed each other. We got to welcome in 2 new members and we look forward to our next muster and time to get together. If you are ever out our way and we have a muster scheduled, please come.

S*T*A*R CHAPTER

At this time I would like to thank Jay Maust for the last 4 years as President of the S*T*A*R Chapter. His time and dedication has made the S*T*A*R Chapter a growing success.



We have had some chapter members who have been very busy recruiting new members. Moving up are David Ruhnke #8154, moved from 25 to 28; S*T*A*R Chapter Muster Master Sherwin Stielow #6047, 23 to 25 thus earning another Gold Star; Merle Dodge #9717, 18 to 19; Dale Hertzfeld #5478, 18 to 19; Thomas Green #2524, 17 to 18; Carl Hallada #8486, 17 to 18; and our S*T*A*R Chapter President Jackie Weis #12337, 12 to 13; "I'm out to get ya Mr. President" Curt Newton #10059, 11 to 12; Craig Christen #10700, 9 to 10 and Kenneth Mayhew #10564, 9 to 10 - both earning their Bronze Star; John Katin #12350, 8 to 9; our National 1st. Vice President Charles Kuzma #12128, 6 to 7; Harry Smith #6363, 6 to 7; James McDade #6016, 5 to 6; Charles Tamborino, 5 to 7. Sherwin Stielow, Craig Christen, Kenneth Mayhew will be sent their stars.

And a Big S*T*A*R welcome to Jerry Sweeney #12266, William Blansfield #6319 and Bob Bennett #12711, who have recruited their 5th member, and thus membership eligibility into the S*T*A*R Chapter, who may have joined by the time you read this.

Congratulations to all for your outstanding recruiting efforts. We have 36 people who are at the 4 mark for membership, remember

now is the time to recruit your spouse at \$15.00, it's a great bargain!!

Later Y'all - Keep Recruiting
Jackie Weis, President

TRI-STATE PANHANDLERS

The annual Chapter Anniversary Muster was held on the first weekend in November at the Southwind RV Park in Foley, AL. This was the Chapter's fifteenth anniversary and what better way to celebrate than have the wife of the Chapter's first President (Chris Herrera), Carole, serve as host for the Muster. As can be seen in the photo, Carole and Co-hosts Gary & Melanie Zick and Greg & Diane Simmons presented a wonderful muster and prepared excellent meals despite the sage (wise, not spiced) advice from Chapter President Tom Dillon.



Above: Panhandlers cook up a storm

The highlight of the weekend was the White Elephant Sale with auctioneers Richard Pendleton and Yuille Young. The pair provided great entertainment and managed not to break anything. We welcomed new member Cliff & Patti Davis and Kay & George Smith. Also visiting were Bob & Joyce McGraw, future SMART members. Gary Zick won the 50/50 drawing making him \$60 richer. Needless to say, the muster was a rousing success. Of course, any muster within a few miles of an outlet mall is successful.

Carol Kuzma

SCENES FROM VETERANS WEEK



2011 AIBF Report

Many of us left the SMART National in Shawnee, OK and headed west to Kirkland Air Force Base in Albuquerque. It wasn't long before all 22 rigs arrived. Our welcome dinner was at the Kirkland golf course clubhouse where we all introduced ourselves and received our caravan briefing.

We all enjoyed the Albuquerque museum and a guided tour of Old Town. Early in 1880 the railway was routed about one and a half miles east of the town plaza. A "New Albuquerque" began to spring up by the tracks - hence the name "Old Town."

Boarding the MWR buses at 5:15 a.m. was a little hard, but we all made it and departed to the Balloon Fiesta grounds. The Dawn Patrol Show is a choreographed display of color in motion. Dawn Patrol balloons participate in a pre dawn show that also helps pilots determine aloft conditions. Opening ceremonies were at 6:45 a.m. then came the Mass Ascension, hundreds of balloons were launched from the park in two waves and this took approx. 2 hours. The dazzling barrage of colors filling the sky was overwhelming. 586 balloons from all over the world were participating in this 40th anniversary event. The museum of Nuclear Science was our afternoon tour, then we headed back to prepare for our evening pot luck supper.

The tour of the Balloon museum was very interesting, the new Centennial Exhibit Celebrating 100 years of flight in New Mexico, a Century of Flying High: Science, Space and Sport. While we were there Jim Fordice, a retired balloon pilot talked to us about ballooning.

We boarded the MWR buses for Acoma Pueblo - Sky City Cultural Center. Our guided tour of the ancient pueblo village atop a 367 foot sandstone bluff in a valley studded with sacred, towering monoliths. Acoma Pueblo has earned the reputation as the oldest continuously inhabited in North America. The mesa top settlement is known for its unique art and rich culture. Absolutely no photography inside the church and within the cemetery courtyard was allowed. The burial ground consists of four layers of interment which has an elevation of forty feet.

Our Santa Fe tour began at the New Mexico National Guard and Bataan Memorial Museum. On April 9th, 1942 the Allied military forces stationed on the Philippine Islands were surrendered to the Japanese Army by their leaders. Members of New Mexico's National Guard 200th Coast Artillery (Anti Aircraft) and its wartime siblings, the 515th Coast Artillery (Anti Aircraft) were some of the thousands of Allied personnel which endured the infamous Bataan Death March.

Then on to Loretta Chapel. The 131 year old chapel is known for its "miraculous staircase", a spiral stairway built by a mysterious carpenter, with two 360 degree turns and no nails or screws (wooden pegs only) for support.

The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi was built between 1869-1887. Under the direction of Santa Fe's first Roman Catholic bishop, Jean-Baptiste Lamy, of France. A mix of adobe, French Romanesque, and modern architectural styles, the Cathedral combines incredible stained glass from France with stone from Lamy, south of Santa Fe. Bishop Jean-Baptiste Lamy is buried in the crypt below the Cathedral Sanctuary.

Santa Fe's downtown square "The Plaza" is a shopping mecca. Along with the shops and restaurants, local Navajo artists sell their handmade pottery and jewelry from the sidewalk.

Our guide at the Capital building was very informative. The state flag is the Zia flag. New Mexico's distinctive Zia symbol is closely associated with the Land of Enchantment. It represents a circular sun with linear rays extending in four directions. To the Zia people four is a significant number. It is embodied in the 4 directions of the earth, the 4 seasons of the year, the four times of the day: sunrise, noon, evening and night, and in life's 4 divisions: childhood, youth, adulthood and old age. Bound together in a circle of life, without beginning, without end. The abundance of art work and pottery by New Mexicans was outstanding.

We left Kirkland AFB and moved into the Balloon Fiesta RV parking area. This was a good place to be, you could get on a bus at anytime and ride across the road to the Balloon grounds, or you could sit by your rigs and watch the balloons flying over, or best yet, sit in your rig and watch the nightly fireworks.

Another one of the highlights of the caravan was our visit to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Our wagon master and mistress, John & Arlene Farrell had arranged for one of the WWII Navajo Code Talkers, Bill Toledo - 3rd Marine Division 1942-1945, to talk to us about his tour of duty. He wore with pride the Navajo Code Talker's uniform, a turquoise colored cap, a gold Navajo shirt, khaki pants, black shiny shoes, a turquoise necklace, and ribbons of his battle engagements.

PFC Toledo told us his story, from losing his parents at a very young age and being raised by his grandparents. Joining the Marine Corps, primarily to be a code talker, going to boot camp and being shipped out to the South Pacific for the invasion of Guadalcanal, Guam, Peleliu, and Bougainville. He was one of the code talkers who participated in the invasion of Iwo Jima. He was proud to tell us that the Marines landed on the island of Iwo Jima at 2 a.m. on February 19, 1945.

The Navajo language was used very successfully as a secret code during WWII, in the South Pacific where four hundred Navajo Marines were on active duty in the battles with the Japanese forces. They were responsible for many victories during the war, as Japanese cryptographers could not break their "code". PFC Toledo then signed our books, Warriors Navajo Code Talkers, and Code Talker, that we had purchased there at the IPCC. He then posed for pictures with 4 of our group, 2 Navy Corpsmen, Don Beard, & Dale Hertzfeld, 2 Marines, Christian Eck & Rick McGuire.

The initial recommendation was to recruit 200 Navajo Indians into the Marine Corps. They would be called "Code Talkers", but the commandant of The Marine Corp limited the initial number of recruits to 30 (the actual number was 29). In the lobby of the IPCC, PFC Chester Nez was sitting with Judith Schiess Avila, they were autographing the book "Code Talker", the first and only memoir by one of the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers of WWII, written by Judith Schiess Avila. PFC Nez is the last surviving Navajo of the original 29 "Code Talkers."

Taking the bus to the balloon events was handy. Mornings: for the Dawn Patrol, Mass Ascension including Flight of the Nations Mass Ascension, and Special Shape Rodeo. Evenings: for the Twilight Twinkle Glow, Balloon Glow, Special Shape Glowdeo, Night Magic Glow, and the Fireworks Show.

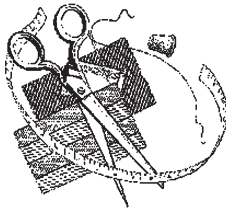
Being on this caravan, making new friends, seeing all of these balloons and learning the history of the area, was truly a wonderful experience.

To John & Arlene Farrell - THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

May Jones #8171

QUILTERS BLOCK

We are finally settled into our Florida home and I'm trying to get caught up on projects. At our meeting at National we decided on a Disappearing or Scrappy Nine patch quilt. Harriet Crabtree sent me a sample and instructions, so I am forwarding them to all of you.



We decided on 5 inch squares, the middle one being a beige color. The other 8 squares are to be of flowered, small & medium prints, in medium to pastel colors, no bright or dark colors. I hope when it's quilted it will look like an old family quilt from long ago. If everyone sends 2 or three blocks we should be able to make a queen size. You can use the same prints; just move them around so when you cut it in half, they will come together differently but I think will help draw the quilt together if the prints are repeated. I hope that makes sense. I have attached the pattern, any questions just email any of us or all.

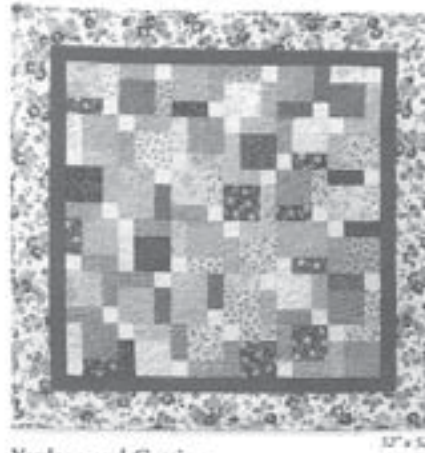
This year I would like these back by **April 1st**, to our Florida address, so I hopefully can have it finished before we head home. Since our region is in charge of National, I will be very busy when we get home to Illinois. So here we go, hope it turns out as good as last year, thanks, Karen.

Karen Dietrich

39625 Quartz Drive • Zephyrhills, FL 33540

PS: I plan on having them put the info on the SMART web page, so if anyone else wants to help, the instructions will be there.

Tossed Nine-Patch



Fabric Featured
Magic Vine
by
Eleanor Burns
and

BENARTEX
INCORPORATED

Magic Vine 5" Squares

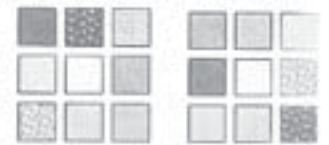
Printed by *Trina Stearns*
Quilted by *Annex Dumas*

Yardage and Cutting

Nine Blocks			
One Package Magic Vine 5" squares			
(72) 5" squares			
Or (72) 5" different prints			
 Background	(2) 5" strips cut into (8) 5" squares	1/4 yd	
 First Border	(4) 2 1/2" strips	1/4 yd	
 Second Border and Binding	(5) 5" strips (5) 3" strips	1 1/4 yds	
 Backing		3 1/4 yds or 58" x 58"	
 Batting		58" x 58"	

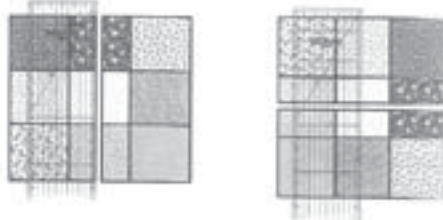
If you are using Magic Vine 5" square package, two 5" squares are extra. As a suggestion, you may want to eliminate large scale tone on tone, and floral prints.

There are two 5" squares of each fabric in the package. For variety in the finished Nine-Patch, place one print in the middle row. In a second Nine-Patch, place the same print in a corner. Note the red squares and their positions in the finished quilt.

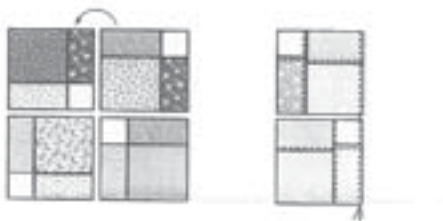


Chopping Up Nine-Patches

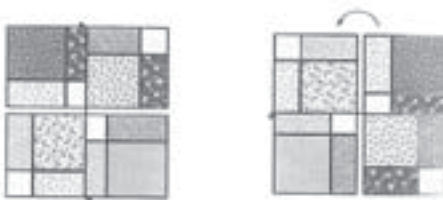
- Place Nine-Patch on large cutting mat right side up.
- With 6" x 24" ruler, line up 2 1/4" line with center vertical seam. Cut.
- Turn mat. Line up 2 1/4" line with seam, and cut again.



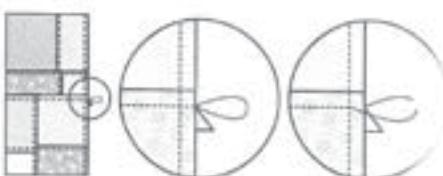
- "Too" patches, and place back together with a variety of different fabrics.
- Flip vertical row on right to vertical row on left. Assembly-line sew.



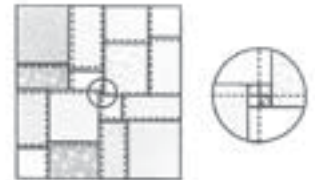
- Open. Do not clip connecting thread.
- Turn. Flip right sides together.



- At seam, push top seam up, and underneath seam down. Lock seams together, and sew.
- Clip connecting thread. Unsew approximately three straight stitches on both sides of seam.

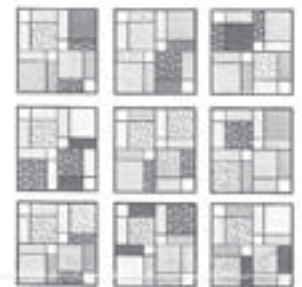


- Press top vertical seam to right, and bottom vertical seam to left.
- Open center and press flat. A four-patch is formed as seams swirl around center.

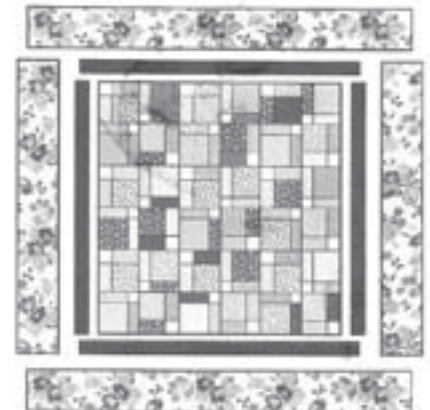


Finishing Top

- Lay out nine blocks three across and three down.
- Sew top together.



- Sew First Border to sides. Set seam, open, and press seams toward First Border.
- Sew First Border to top and bottom, and press.
- Sew Second Border.
- Layer, quilt, and bind.



PROPOSED CHANGE TO SPOUSE MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

Your VOTE is requested!

During the September 2011 Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting, proposals were considered to make a change in the definition of Associate Spouse membership contained in SMART Corporate Bylaws Section 4.03.E. Since this proposed change constitutes a significant change of the Bylaws, a 2/3 affirmative vote of the membership is required to approve the change. This change is to remove the word "Regular" from the definition of Associate Member, Spouses, thereby allowing the spouses of all members of SMART to become Associate Members. If approved, the new section of the Bylaws would read as follows:

4.03.E. SPOUSES: Spouses of SMART members.

RATIONALE: By limiting the Associate Spouse membership to only the spouses of Regular Members, a significant number of spouses are excluded from becoming Associate Members of SMART. By changing the wording of Section 4.03 from "Spouses of regular members of SMART" to "Spouses of SMART members", all spouses are afforded an equal opportunity to become Associate Members of SMART.

THE VOTE ON THE PROPOSAL WILL TAKE PLACE USING THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

(1) **PAPER BALLOT** (USPS mail to SMART HQ) – Cut out the ballot below, mark your vote and place the ballot in an envelope with your SMART Member Number and the word "Ballot" printed on the **outside** of the envelope. Each member must use a separate ballot. Seal the envelope and place it inside another envelope. Place nothing else in the envelope. Address the outer envelope to: **SMART HQ, 600 University Office Blvd. Suite 1A, Pensacola, FL 32504.**

(2) **EMAIL BALLOT** – A ballot may be submitted by email to smart@smartrving.org. The Subject Line of the Email must read "Associate Spouse Ballot". Then the Email must read: "I vote **FOR** the change to Section 4.03.E." **OR** "I vote **AGAINST** the change to Section 4.03E." Your SMART Member Number must be included in the email for the ballot to be counted. Each member must use a separate email to vote.

(3) **IN PERSON** – ballots may be cast at SMART HQ in Pensacola, FL during normal office hours, **OR** at the 2012 National Muster in Goshen, IN. Unless voting at the National Muster, **ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED AT SMART HQ BY AUGUST 27, 2012**

BALLOT TO CHANGE SMART BYLAWS

Section 4.03.E. SPOUSES: Spouses of SMART members

FOR _____ AGAINST _____ Member # _____



SMART CARAVAN APPLICATION

Make Checks Payable to: SMART • Mail To: SMART, INC. • 600 UNIVERSITY OFFICE BLVD., SUITE 1A • PENSACOLA, FL 32504

A minimum of \$260.00 will be submitted with this application. \$60.00 of which is a nonrefundable, non-transferable Administrative Fee (unless cancelled by SMART). The remaining \$200.00 will be credited as a deposit on the cost of the caravan. 100% deposit refunds will not be made unless a replacement is found, funds for the caravan have not been expended, or the service provider returns funds expended. Any funds returned by the service providers will be refundable after the completion of the caravan. Trip Cancellation Insurance is at the discretion of the participant. You may wish to contact your regular insurance provider to ascertain if they provide this service.

Name of Caravan _____ Date of Event _____
Mbr# _____ Last _____ First _____ Spouse _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ (cell) _____ Email _____
(print) _____ Name of Guest traveling in your rig

JACKET SIZE (if available): *His* - (S) (M) (L) (XL) (XXL) (XXXL) *Hers* - (S) (M) (L) (XL) (XXL) (XXXL) *Guest* - (S) (M) (L) (XL) (XXL) (XXXL)

Is this your 1st caravan? (Y) (N) **Type RV:** MH _____ 5th Wh _____ Trailer _____ Slide Out _____

Length _____ ft. Coupled (with tow vehicle) _____ ft. **License Plate #'s:** RV _____ Vehicle _____

DO you want 50 AMP at an extra cost (if available - NO GUARANTEE) - (Y) (N) pay @campground.

ALL SMART Members & non-SMART members must sign in order to participate – Please Read:

For services rendered to/received by those signed below, in their participation of the SMART activity named above, the undersigned hereby releases, and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless SMART Inc, all officers, directors, employees, agents and their successors and assigns from all liabilities, injuries, obligations, claims, demands, losses, damages, judgments, penalties, expenses and disbursements, including reasonable attorney's fee of any kind and nature arising out of, or in any way related to the activity listed above. SMART is NOT responsible for the actions of any participating company, or agent, with regard to their role in organizing, planning, or for any other service they may provide for the benefit of the named person or activity. All persons must be 18 years or older, and must sign the required application. Name & Signature of Guests in your Rig "REQUIRED"

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

S*M*A*R*T MUSTER CALENDAR 2012

See Region News or call "Contact Person" for specific directions to camping location. Every effort is made to list CORRECT info - if in doubt, call HQ or call CONTACT PERSON listed. For updates go to www.smartving.org and click on **Muster Calendar**.

THE INFORMATION ON THE WEBSITE SUPERCEDES INFORMATION IN THE TRAVELER.

JANUARY 2012

- 6 **Bard Mansion, CBC Port Hueneme, CA**
Host: Channel Islands Seagull
Contact: Roy Allen 805-794-5666
- 9-11 **Canyon Trails RV Park, San Marcos, TX**
Host: Cajuns
Contact: Hoss & Elaine Bergeron
- 11-14 **Augie's Quail Trail RV Resort**
Host: AZ Tumbleweeds
- 16-20 **Lazy Days Rally Park, Seffner, FL**
Host: FL Buccaneers
Contact: Cordell Vickers
727-535-9988 cvse1919@aol.com
- 17-19 **Florida Gateway Resort, Jasper, FL**
Host: Tri-State Rebels
Contact: Ron & Myra Reichert
843-525-1045 cell 843-252-1623
- 18-22 **Oaks & Pines RV Park, Lake City, FL**
Host: FL Roadrunners
Contact: Tony Richter 386-972-1135
- 24 **Jake's Rib, Chickasha, OK**
Host: OK SMARTS
Contact: Danny King 2kings6@sbcglobal.net
- 26-29 **Pismo Sands RV Resort, Ocesno, CA**
Host: Channel Islands Seagull
Contact: Roy Allen 805-794-5666

FEBRUARY 2012

- 3 **Bard Mansion, CBC Port Hueneme, CA**
Host: Channel Islands Seagull
Contact: Roy Allen 805-794-5666
- 8 **Mr. Gettis Pizza, McAllen, TX**
11:00 to 2:00
Host: Midway USA
Contact: Jerry Gum 316-207-3377
- 8-12 **Eagles Roost, Lake Park, FL**
Host: Drifters
Contact: Richard Davis 904-264-8338
rsqueakdavis@aol.com
Elaine & Durham Searcy 386-684-4173
- 13-17 **Palm Canyon RV Resort, Borrego Springs, CA**
Host: Diego Cruisers
Contact: Roberta Wynne & Sharon McConnell
- 15 **Bella Vista Insurance Conference Room Pizza Party**
Host: Arkansas Diamonds
Contact: Tom Percy 479-855-4666
- 20-24 **"M" RV Park, Moore Haven, FL**
Host: Gulf Coast Eagles
Contact: Gene & Judy Benuzzi
941-815-8283
Floyd & Judy Harden 407-962-6852

MARCH 2012

- 3 **Bard Mansion, CBC Port Hueneme, CA**
Host: Channel Islands Seagull
Contact: Roy Allen 805-794-5666
- 12-16 **South 81 RV Park, Duncan, OK**
Host: OK SMARTS
Contact: Danny King
2kings6@sbcglobal.net
- 15-19 **Jojoba Hills Resort, Aguanga, CA**
Host: SO Cal
Contact: Bill & Sharon Whitaker
slwhitaker1941@aol.com
Bob & Gretchen Mattison
- 20-22 **Sugar Mill Plantation RV Park, Ochlocknee, GA**
Host: Tri-State Rebels
Contact: Stan & Joan Scheet 850-995-1403
Denny & Nancy Sloan 770-953-6695
- 21 **Bella Vista Insurance Conference Room Pot Luck Supper**
Host: Arkansas Diamonds
Contact: Tom Percy 479-855-4666
- 21-25 **Eagle Hammock, Kings Bay Sub Base Kings Bay, GA**
Host: FL Roadrunners
Contact: David & Jackie Weis
912-729-4142 dweis@tds.net

APRIL 2012

- 2-6 **SW REGIONAL MUSTER**
3400 South Avenue 7 East, The Palms RV Resort, Yuma, AZ
Host: AZ Roadrunners
AZ Tumbleweeds
SMART KOFAS
- 17-20 **SMW REGIONAL MUSTER**
Cowtown RV Park, Aledo, TX
Host: SMW Regional Muster
Contact: TBA
- 23-28 **SE REGIONAL MUSTER**
Wekiva Falls Resort, Sorrento, FL
Host: SE Regional Muster
Contact: John Tesmer 813-990-7288
johnstesmer@aol.com
- 26-30 **NMW REGIONAL MUSTER**
Kansas State Fairground, 2000 N Poplar St Hutchinson, KS 67502
Host: Midway USA
Contact: Don McDiffett 785-341-9115

MAY 2012

- 7-11 **San Onofre Beach, Camp Pendleton**
Host: SO Cal
Contact: Jeff & Carole Steinorth
Bill & Judy Turpin

- 15-17 **Eagle Hammock RV Park Kings Bay Naval Base, Kingsland GA**
Host: Tri-State Rebels
Contact: Tom & Eve Jagielo 706-955-3911
Curt Crowe 229-225-8414
- 16-20 **Cave Country RV Campground Cave Country, KY**
Host: Ohio Valley/Rocky Top Joint Muster
Contact: Ed & Kathy Pate 270-307-9617
callitik@hotmail.com
- 20-24 **Pine View Campground, Fort McCoy, WI**
Call 608-388-3517
Host: Wisconsin SMARTS
Contact: Ralph & Judy Donais 763-441-2630

JUNE 2012

- 11-15 **Francis Park, 29862 N 900 Ave, Kewanee, IL**
Host: Great Lakes
Contact: Paul & Romelle Hintz
309-269-8768
- 20-24 **Spring Lake RV Resort, Crossville, TN**
Host: Rocky Top/Ohio Valley Joint Muster
Contact: Glen & Marlene Thomas
931-797-4247 931-510-6251
herbnquilt@glenmar.us

JULY 2012

- 17-19 **Bald Mountain RV Resort, Hiawasee, GA**
Host: Tri-State Rebels *Contact:* TBA
- 15-21 **Branch County Fairgrounds**
262 S Sprague St., Coldwater, MI
Host: Great Lakes
Contact: Robert & Dianne Metevia
517-688-4709 rodi@frontiernet.net

AUGUST 2012

- 4-10 **Elkhart County Fairgrounds**
17746 County Rd 34, Goshen, IN
Host: Great Lakes
Contact: Jack & Karen Dietrich
847-502-0923 Kdiet4948@aol.com

SEPTEMBER 2012

- 10-15 **2012 NATIONAL MUSTER**
Goshen, IN
Host: NC Region
Contact: Mike Kegley 989-686-3125
810-964-4163 Cell kegley@chartermi.net
- 18-20 **The Great Outdoors RV Resort, Franklin, NC**
Host: Tri-State Rebels
Contact: TBA

NOVEMBER 2012

- 20-22 **Twin Oaks Park Campground, Hoboken, GA**
Host: Tri-State Rebels
Contact: TBA

PLEASE EMAIL smart@smartving.org WITH ANY CHANGES, CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS



S*M*A*R*T APPLICATION for MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS ONLY (Please print clearly)

Fees Payable with this form to: SMART

Mail to: SMART, 600 University Office Blvd #1A, Pensacola, FL 32504

Applicant's LAST Name _____ First _____ Initial _____ Spouse's First Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell # _____ Email Address _____

Referred by: _____ (SMART Member # of referring SMART member)

SMART is a Veterans Organization 501(c)(19); and REQUIRED to have the following information.

Branch of Service _____ Year Entered Service _____ Year Service Ended _____

New Member Badge comes with the New Member Packet; Spouse Badge must be purchased for \$7.50

Member Preferred 1st Name: _____ Optional Info: _____
(i.e. city, state, branch of service, duty status)

Spouse Preferred 1st Name: _____ Optional Info: _____
(i.e. city, state, branch of service, duty status)

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Check Appropriate Category

Yes, I would like to apply for the **Reduced Cost 2-year membership**. This offer requires Chapter Membership within 3 months of joining. The 1-year rate shown below provides 2 years of membership. Details furnished upon receipt of this form. Regular renewal rates apply. Check this block **and** the membership category below. **Only memberships 1a, 1b, & 2a** are eligible for this membership offer.

1. Regular Membership:

1a. Regular Member: Active/Retired US Military Services, NOAA, USPHS, or Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients. New member packet fee \$15 + \$45 annual dues = \$60. See above for 2-year membership offer.

1b. Family Member: Both parties must be Regular member eligible and submit individual applications. New member packet fee \$15 + \$65 annual dues = \$80. See above for 2-year membership offer.

2. Associate Membership:

2a. Associate Member: Honorably discharged veterans US Military Services: Fee \$15 (New Member Packet) + \$45 annual dues = \$60. See above for 2-year membership offer.

2b. Associate Spouse: Spouse of a Regular Member. Fee \$15 – 1st year annual dues (Member packet fee is waived) + \$7.50 for name badge (optional) = \$22.50. Regular renewal rates apply.

2c. Associate Widows/Widowers: Fee \$15 (New Member Packet) + \$30 annual dues = \$45.

2d. Canadian, NATO/SEATO: Fee \$20 (New Member Packet) + \$50 annual dues = \$70

3. Social Member: must be former SMART member and no longer travel in an RV, annual dues = \$25

****NOTE: Most mail forwarding Services DO NOT forward 3rd class mail – If you desire 1st class mailings of "The SMART Traveler" magazine, please add \$10/year with your payment. ****

I certify with Honor the information I have provided is true and correct.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

S*M*A*R*T MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

RENEWING MEMBERS ONLY (Please print clearly)

Fees Payable with this form to: SMART • Mail to: SMART, 600 University Office Blvd #1A, Pensacola, FL 32504

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – For current members renewing their membership. Member expiration date is on the mailing label of your Traveler & Membership Card.

Mbr # _____ NAME _____ SPOUSE _____ Mbr# _____
Full Name First Name

Email Address _____

List all Chapters you belong to _____

Renewal Fees:

Regular Member – \$45 (X__years) =	\$ _____	Family Member – \$65 (X__years) =	\$ _____
Associate Member – \$45 (X__years) =	\$ _____	Associate Spouse – \$30 (X__years) =	\$ _____
Associate Widow/Widower – \$30 (X__years) =	\$ _____	Canadian Member – \$50 (X__years) =	\$ _____
Social Member – \$25 (X__years) =	\$ _____	1st Class Mailing – \$10 (X__years) =	\$ _____
Donation enclosed to support SMART	\$ _____		

CUT ON DOTTED LINE

CLASSIFIED

Prices for Classified Ads are .10 cents for each printable character, per issue. Payment must be sent with ad, for the number of issues the ad is to be placed. The minimum ad size is 100 characters or a minimum of \$10.00 - per issue. 10% discount is not applicable for classified ads. *If you have any questions please give us a call at 800-354-7681.* **S*M*A*R*T, Inc. does not endorse any advertisers contained herein as referenced to in the Bylaws.**

DIRECTIONS TO HQ PENSACOLA, FL

FROM I-10: take Exit 13 (old Exit 5). At stop light (Davis Hwy.) turn left (South) - stay in far right lane, turn right at the FIRESTONE STORE.

FROM ANY DIRECTION: Get on 291 (Davis Hwy.) turn on the North side of University Mall at the FIRESTONE STORE. Stay on that road until you see American Water. Turn right on the North side of building. You will be facing Motel 6. Look for a row of mail boxes on the left, turn Left into the parking lot. We are in Building 1.

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday CST

CLOSED FRIDAY

2012 NATIONAL MUSTER

The North Central Region will be hosting the 2012 muster at the Elkhart County 4H Fairgrounds. In Goshen, IN. Plans are well under way to insure that everyone finds something of interest to do. The muster will be held from the 10th of September to the 15th of September 2012. Early arrivals will be permitted on the 8th of September.

Being in the Crossroads of America and the RV Capital of America will be an experience that you will talk about for a long time. There will be side trips to see the RV Museum, Shipshewana Flea Market and trips to the various RV stores and manufacturers. You will have the opportunity to have dinner at an Amish home. Check our website for more info: www.smartving.org



Mike Kegley

kegley@chartermi.net

2012 National Muster Master • Elkhart, IN

ATTENTION GOLFERS

The 2012 National Muster will be held by the North Central Region at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds in Goshen, Indiana September 10th to 15th.

Golfers who wish to participate in the golf tournament at the 2012 National Muster must arrive and preregister on September 8th or 9th. The tournament takes place on Monday morning, September 10th at the Black Squirrel Golf Club. We are looking forward to seeing many golfers at the National Muster.

Bob Hammond, Chairman, Golf Tournament

S*M*A*R*T STORE PRICES: RESALE

SMART Decals 3"	\$0.65
SMART Decals 6"	\$0.85
SMART Decals 9"	\$2.05
SMART Bumper Stickers	\$1.50
SMART Cloth Emblem 3 ¼"	\$2.50
SMART Cloth Emblem 8 ½"	\$6.75
SMART Iron-On 8"	\$1.00
SMART Visors (Red, White, Blue)	\$4.95
SMART Hats (Red, White, Blue)	\$6.00
SMART Car Tags	\$3.00
SMART Song CD	\$10.00
SMART Name Badges	\$7.50 (includes S&H)

NOTE: Postage is not included. We charge actual shipping/postage cost. Please send payment with order to Headquarters: SMART, 600 University Office Blvd. # 1-A, Pensacola, FL 32504

SPECIAL OFFER FOR NEW MEMBERS

Pay special attention to the new Membership Application appearing in this and subsequent issues of *The Traveler* magazine. New members have the option of joining for two years for the price of a one-year membership.

What's the catch? Within 90 days of joining SMART, they must join a chapter and be active in that chapter. To help the new member enjoy SMART, the Chapter President assigns a Sponsor to assist and guide them through their first year of membership. Chapter membership and the Sponsor is reported back to SMART HQ by the Chapter President on a form provided to the new member when they join SMART. I don't call that a "catch." A guided tour of SMART for the first year coupled with the fun and fellowship of being an active member of a chapter is all positive.

So when you recruit those new members, be sure to let them know of the special membership offer we're extending to them. Besides, every time you recruit 5 members into SMART, you qualify for a free one-year membership.

SUBMISSION DATES

The deadline for submitting articles or photos for the SMART Traveler is the 1st of EVERY Even Month (Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., Dec. While we set the date for the 1st day of EVERY Even Month, we usually allow for a few days following if you let us know that you will have a submission for the Traveler. And remember - we are always looking for interesting information to pass on to our members, or share stories having to do with SMART, camping or any kind of activity that show new "potential" members what kind of fun our SMART members have.

Seeing The Country We Defend....



S★M★A★R★T®

Special Military Active Retired Travel Club, Inc.
600 University Office Blvd. #1A • Pensacola, FL 32504
(850) 478-1986 • (800) 354-7681
e-mail: smart@smartrving.org

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE

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Pensacola, Florida
PERMIT NO. 686

**SAVE ME!!! SHARE ME WITH OTHER MILITARY RETIREE'S, BASES, CAMPGROUNDS.
PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW WEB ADDRESS www.smartrving.org**

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

PLACES TO VISIT

Ft. Richardson State Historic Site, Texas is an informal place to visit. It is located northwest of Ft. Worth, Texas in Jack County and contains 454.16 acres. Fort Richardson was established in November 1867. It was named in honor of General Israel B. Richardson, who died in the battle of Antietam during the Civil War. The fort was the northernmost of a line of Federal forts established after the Civil War. The soldiers arrived in Jacksboro in 1866 with orders to establish a fort at Buffalo Springs 20 miles north of Jacksboro. Due to unhealthy conditions at Buffalo Springs and the constant Indian raids, the fort was abandoned. The soldiers returned to Jacksboro and eventually received orders to establish a fort on the south banks of Lost Creek. Expeditions sent from Fort Richardson arrested Indians responsible for the Warren Wagon Train massacre in 1871 and fought Comanches in Palo Duro Canyon. The fort was abandoned in May 1878.

Fort site structures include seven of the original buildings which have been restored: the post hospital, the officers quarters (commanding officer), a powder magazine, a morgue, a commissary, a guardhouse and a bakery, which baked 600 loaves per day. There are also two replicas: officer and enlisted mens barracks. There is picnicking, camping, fishing, hiking, biking, nature study and day-use equestrian facilities.

We found this to be a very interesting fort with a lot of history worth a visit.

Don & Etta Daniel
OK Smarts

