



SMART E-NEWS



from S*M*A*R*T* HQ

Volume 2 February 2012 Number 10

Hello! *From National HQ*

Hello everyone! Check out our new smart store page on our website. We now have our own line of SMART Logo Shirts, mugs, tags, etc on our National Website . Go to www.smartrving.org click on SMART Store then click on cafepress.com/smartrvstore. Place your orders today. (SMART gets a commission from every sale)

29th Annual National Muster In Goshen, Indiana



September 10-15 2012

Location: Elkhart County

4-H Agricultural Exposition

Sign Up Today!

See our website for more information.

www.smartrving.org



from our
President,
David Weis

Hello Everyone, Just to keep you all up to date I have appointed Sarah Colt (Sunshine & Roadrunner Chapter member) as The National Historian, a task she has graciously accepted and will do well at. Her name and email address will be placed in the next traveler. Additionally Maria Tesmer (FL Buccaneers & Roadrunner Chapter member) has volunteered to take on the burden of being our "Publications Coordinator" a task she has already tackled and is doing rather well gaining advertising in the TRAVLER. Have a Good Day and Travel Safe. David

It is time for all of us to consider our part in being a leader in your club, SMART... If you are looking for a challenge and have ideas to improve our club, now is the time to step forward! In 2012 all our Southern Regional Directors will be re-elected. If you have organizational skills, your BOD needs you now. Also looking for good **men** and **women** to be your next **2nd VP** now is your chance to make a difference. Please submit your resume IAW SR 6-04 by Apr 30th, 2012 to HQ. Thanks for your support. Larry Sockwell, 2nd VP.

E-News is published by S*M*A*R*T National Headquarters
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From our Roving Reporters on location at the TAMPA RV SHOW on January 12, 2012



With so many RV's on display we decided to focus on 3 that we really wanted to see up close...however, as we approached the Supplier Bldg "B" we met some of our members: **Dennis & Donna Miller**. They sell Rescue Tape, EZ phone holsters with the American Flag, and all American Made products. Dennis & Donna are supporting SMART one customer at the time. They are in Quartzsite for the next RV Show armed with applications and magazines. If you plan to attend the Quartzsite event, look them up!

Our First stop was to see the wheelchair accessible motor home, the Canyon Star 3911 by Newmar. Kevin Richardson, from North Trail RV in FT Meyers, was very helpful in showing us how to operate the lift. Should you have any questions, you can reach Kevin at his cel#293-7072888.



Our next stop was to see the Nexus RVs. If you ever thought about buying your RV directly from the fac-

tory, now you can! This new concept is the brainchild of Claude Donati, President and CEO of Nexus RVs located in Elkhart, IN.



Nexus RVs manufactures Class C and B+ coaches with steel frames built on Ford chassis and powered by F10 engines. Mr. Donati is offering a **\$1000 discount** to

all of our SMART members on the purchase of a new RV and invited our members to his factory during our National Muster in September. To learn more about this concept and explore the different models available, go to www.nexusrv.com

In addition, Nexus RVs sports the title of **HGTV BEST of SHOW AWARD** for 2011 for their Phantom 32 Class C Motor Home!



Mr. Ken and Lynn were also there. They do make the best badges! You can order on-line if you need something quick. His website is www.mrkenbadges.com

Stow & Go Golf Cart

Our final stop was to see The Stow & GO golf cart that can seat up to 4 people. Offered in several colors it can be stowed in the back of an SUV. Price is around \$3,300. You can find out more about them at www.boomerbentsandbikes.com

As closing time approached, we quickly stopped to check out several 5th wheelers, some campers and were amazed at the changes in layouts, sizes and prices....

We want to thank the Florida RV Trade Association for a great show!

Until Next time have safe travels!



FROM our Publications Coordinator.....Maria Tesmer

A big **Thank You** to SMART members that have agreed to share their stories with us. You will soon meet these interesting people in **The TRAVELER**. Our goal is to bring you, our members, interviews and articles that are informative and interesting. We are fortunate to belong to this great organization, let's make it the BEST that it can be while we are having fun and **Seeing the Country We Defend!**

We also want to welcome and introduce Military Living to our SMART family. For those of you who are not familiar with Military Living, they publish maps, books, atlases and newsletters offering information about military bases and services. Our members can now be the first to order the coveted Military RV book. On page 12, you will notice our descriptive ad, hope you like it. In the next issue of **The TRAVELER you will also see the ad for Military Living, it gives you the opportunity to order the Military Living RV Book on-line as well as to send the order by mail. Of course you can also place your order on-line NOW buy going to our MEMBERS PAGE and clicking the **Military Living Banner**. There you can choose the different publications. In the summer, our ad will also be in the **Temporary Military Lodging** book.**

A big **Welcome** and **Thank You** to **RJ Crawford** for agreeing to this partnership!

There are more ads in the works, and we are looking forward to welcoming the respective vendors to our SMART family soon. Here are just a few that have expressed interest in supporting SMART thru the TRAVELER: Tom Raper RV, Nexus RV, La Mesa RV, LazyDays and Independence RV. We want to welcome **PASSPORT AMERICA** to our SMART family...If you are not a member yet, sign up now on our website to enjoy 50% off the daily rates. You need to use this code for SMART to get credit: www.passportamerica.com/netid/sma_mar. Or click their banner on our website. We also want to welcome Oaks and Pines RV Campground to our list of campgrounds that support SMART. A reminder to attend all the regionals that are coming up in April and May and hope you will bring a friend to share our fun at these events, we would love to welcome them to our family and hear their adventures. To all of you, thank you for your support! It is great time to be **SMART!**



Your VOTE is requested!



PROPOSED CHANGE TO SPOUSE MEMBERSHIP CITRERIA

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 voting 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.

ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED AT SMART HQ BY Sept . 1, 2012

Please see our website for details on voting www.smartrving.org

Come Join us at one or more of our
Great Regional Musters

[See our website for registrations on all our musters](#)

Coming to Yuma in April , for the
**2012 South West Regional
Muster**

Want to come early or Stay Longer!

The Palms Resort, Yuma AZ.

Says it'll be happy to accommodate visitors to the great city of Yuma. Just coordinate with Muster Master Bob Bennett at 520-366-0551 or email at elbobO@hotmail.com.

Indicate your intent either to come a few days early (no more than 5) or stay longer (any no of days) on the registration form and submit the registration form and your check to Arizona Roadrunners. TO: Mrs. Dawn Beckman 15220 North B Court , EL Mirage, AZ. 85335. The muster fee is \$108. (2) people, parking for (4) nights is \$200.

Add'l nights \$23.

2012 Southeast Region Muster



"Springtime Extravaganza"
Invites you to

**Wekiva Falls Resort in
Sorrento, FL**

April 23-28, 2012

**The first 50 Rigs to sign up,
get their name put in a drawing
to get their
Muster Fee Returned.**

**Please contact John Tesmer Muster Master @
813-990-7288 go to
www.smartrving.org to get your application**

SMW Regional Muster

**Cowtown RV Park,
Aledo, TX**

April 17-20, 2012

SMWREGION-SMART.ORG



**ATTENTION! Date and
Location has
changed....**



2012 South Central

Regional Muster is now

May 8-May 13th at

SOUTHWINDS RV PARK in Foley, AL.

Host: AL SMARTS and SMART SOLO's

See website for registration form
www.smartrving.org

2012

North

Mid West

Regional Muster



April 26-30

**Kansas State Fairgrounds,
Hutchinson, KS**

See website for more info smartrving.org

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February Muster Calendar 2012

- 3 Bard Mansion, CBC Port Hueneme, CA**
Host: Channel Islands Seagull
Contact: Roy Allen 805-794-5666
- 5-10 Kit Fox Patterson, CA**
Host: Golden Gate
Contact: Rick & Marcia Esparza 209-667-5613
- 8 Mr. Gatti's Pizza, McAllen, TX**
11:00 to 2:00
Host: Midway USA
Contact: Jerry Gum 316-207-3377
- 8-12 Eagles Roost, Lake Park GA**
Host: Drifters
Contact: Richard Davis 904-264-8338
rsqueakdavis@aol.com
- 12-15 Ozark Trav-L-Park, Ozark AL**
Host : White Sands
Contact: Carmen & Elaine Ciardello
caetcird@cox.net
- 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
- 15-19 Cedar Key RV Resot, Cedar Key, FL**
Host: FI Sunshine
Steve Jackson 386-445-3696
- 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

Additional events for the South East Region

As February is Mardi Gras month, there are a lot of events around the country to help you celebrate . If you are still wintering in Florida, Universal Studios is hosting the Annual Mardi Gras celebration from February 11 thru Apr. 14 **Catch the BEADS. Catch the MUSIC. Catch the SPIRIT**
www.universalorlando.com

Other websites that are also great if you would like something to do while in our region: Southeasttourism.org and Festivalandevents.com

Chip Shots

SMART DUFFERS stay active between National Musters. Bill Blansfield (CAJUNS), reports enjoying rounds of golf recently while RVing in the South Texas Rio Grande River Valley. Keeping up their games and friendships are Julio Neives, James Heldt and Bill, along with friends from Missouri, Kansas, and Brownsville, TX.



DUFFERS member Cordell Vickers (BUCCANEERS) reports final plans shaping up for a Golf Tournament at the Wekivia Falls Muster. He is working with a Scramble format at Eagle Dunes Golf Course, which is about 12 miles from the Camp Grounds. Tee Time: April 24 at 8:45 AM, range balls provided. "So grab your clubs and lets play some golf," says Cordell. "If you have any golf gifts to donate for the Tournament, bring them. See you at the Tournament." Everyone is welcome.

The Southeast Region Muster is 23-28 April, 2012 (early bird day April 22nd) at Wekivia Falls RV Resort in Sorrento, FL.

Golfers are asked to share their winter golf activities with each other through SMART E-NEWS and TRAVELER. Please send words and pictures to this year's DUFFERS President, Don Vardell (smart12843@gmail.com), soon after golf outings for sharing in the next scheduled communication publication. Also, please send/confirm/correct your current e-mail address with Don. Communication with the following DUFFERS MEMBERS came back to Don as **undeliverable**: Steve Bahr; Claude Church; Gary Rath; Del Reeves; David Ruhnke. There's lots of room for more members in the DUFFERS Chapter. Initial membership is only \$5. The chapter voted NOT to collect dues this year.

Golf is good for the soul. You get so mad at yourself you forget to hate your enemies. (Will Rogers) Read more: <http://www.quotesquotations.com/funny/funny-golf-quotes.htm#ixzz1kQN9tWln>

Don Vardell Be Safe; Stay Well; Travel SMART 228-623-1197

Our Mission Statement

Special Military Active Retired Travel Club (SMART) brings military veterans (active, retired, & honorably discharged) together to share camaraderie, travel, RV'ing, and support our veterans. We provide information for the military RV family and support welfare programs while "Seeing the Country We Defend"

**White Sands is hosting a Muster
at Ozark Trav-L-Park**

(4000 US 231 North, Ozark AL 36360)

Feb. 12-15 2012

Muster Hosts are Carmen & Elaine Ciardello (850) 439-1892 caetciard@cox.net

and Tom & Gisele Dillon (850) 478-5769 usafdillenger@att.net.

Please contact us if you plan on attending.

Full Hook ups and pull thru , \$32.35 a night

**New Deadline to sign up for the
ALASKA Caravan
is April 1st, 2012. Sign up today!**



Members please remember our
office is **closed on Fridays.**

We are open Monday thru Thursday 8:00 to
4:00 Central Time

Closed on Federal Holidays

Attention Chapter Presidents

We need to update information about your chapters for the National Website. Here is your chance to encourage (entice) new members to join your chapters. Write an updated short description about you chapter and send to HQ attention Phyllis. Thanks for your time. Photos are welcomed!

NEW RV TRAVEL BLOG

Barbara Thibodeau, spouse of
SMART member # 13315

Rick Thibodeau has created a RV
Travel log at

[http://
go.rvcampingandtraveltips.com](http://go.rvcampingandtraveltips.com)

She has posted stories about the
National Muster at Shawnee, Ok
and upcoming caravan trips
planned. She is advertising
SMART as well.

Encourage her and visit often as
possible to read her latest blogs.

She will continue her series on
the caravans and post blogs about
her and Rick's RV travels this
year. If you have any ideas for
stories or feedback please contact
her at barbt-66514@yahoo.com.
Happy Travels!

ALL ABOARD for the Colorado Adventure!! For those of you who are thinking about this caravan – you need to get onboard and get your reservations in, as the deadline (February 10, 2012) for signing up is quickly approaching. Besides riding the rails, there will be other activities to keep everyone busy. While visiting Canon City, we'll enjoy a meal prepared by the local VFW Post and a visit to the Holy Cross Abby. While in Golden, time will be allotted for those who would like to visit the State Capitol, Denver Mint, or Sport Authority field, home of the Denver Bronco's. Time is getting short if you want to join us on this Adventure. If you would like more information, you can contact us at (479) 855-4778 or Email: smarttrnr@cox.net John & Arlene Farrell, Wagon Masters

SMART Caravans need more folks to sign up.

SMART Caravans are the most inexpensive quality full-service caravans available—usually around 40-50% less expensive than commercial caravans. SMART has 6 caravans planned for 2012 (Alaska, Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, Colorado Adventures, Oshkosh Experimental Aircraft Association Air Venture/Wisconsin Dells, Canadian Maritimes, and Rose Parade). Of these, 2 are GO - full with waiting lists (Maritimes & Balloon Fiesta), **3 others need more participants to GO**, and one (Rose Parade) is almost full. Our wagon masters have been hearing from prospective participants, but **we need those who want to attend to sign up IMMEDIATELY or they may soon be cancelled!** We usually try to have the caravan filled by 6 months prior, but we have to have enough folks signed up at least 3 months in advance to make the deposits.

If you are not familiar with our SMART caravans, just read some of the write-ups in the last few issues of the **Traveler Magazine** or visit the SMART website link [2011 caravans](#).

If you are interested in any of the 2012 SMART caravans, especially the Colorado Adventure, Alaska, or Oshkosh EAA Airshow/Wisconsin Area, we need you to contact the respective caravan wagon master IMMEDIATELY and submit your application and deposit to HQ SMART. Remember, you can sponsor non-SMART eligible RVing friends to go along with you on the caravans (they become Auxiliary members).

Here are links to the respective **2012 caravans that need filling soon:**

[Colorado Adventures – 10 February 2012 signup deadline.](#) 19 May – 10 June 2012. Start in Durango, CO and visit spectacular springtime Colorado and travel on some of the great remaining train rides.

[Oshkosh Experimental Aircraft Association Air Venture Airshow & Wisconsin Dells 1 March 2012 signup deadline.](#) 12-27 July 2012 Visit and participate the premiere civilian airshow and flying-oriented workshops in North America, 10,000+ experimental aircraft fill the sky; after visiting fun packed Wisconsin Dells area.

[ALASKA – 1 April 2012 signup deadline.](#) Start at Great Falls, MT. 17 June – 23 Aug 2012. Travel to/up the ALCAN Hwy to see the western Canadian provinces and Alaska—the last great frontier.

This is one of the primary reasons you joined SMART—to caravan to spectacular places with your military veteran comrades. SIGN UP NOW PLEASE!
Contact one of your National Travel Coordinator folks (Doug Harrell 443 752-9188 bigkuputa@yahoo.com or Craig Christen 931 224-8261 ctchristen@earthlink.net) or the wagonmasters if you have any questions. Thank you,
Craig Christen

S*M*A*R*T* Has a Facebook Group

We now have a Facebook Group that will provide another avenue for our members to communicate by posting photos, videos, and comments on the wall relating to ***S*M*A*R*T**** activities and their RV travel experiences. In addition, it will provide another way for prospective members to gain information about ***S*M*A*R*T**** which will help lead them to becoming members.

This Group is authorized by ***S*M*A*R*T* HQ***, however, the views and comments made by individual members do not represent those of ***S*M*A*R*T* HQ***. Visitors will be able to view the Group Wall but only members of the Group can post comments, and etc. You can go to the ***S*M*A*R*T**** Facebook Group by entering Special Military Active Retired Travel Club (S.M.A.R.T.) in your personal Facebook page search area. Questions may be sent to the Group Administrator, John Steinbauer at kjsteinbauer@comcast.net