

CAMPING TODAY®



April 2019



Retiree Rally in Houma, LA was a success....page 4

New International Retiree King and Queen....page 8



From the President - Shari Weber



Spring has sprung! (At least I keep telling myself that.) The snow birds are flocking north and RVs are being taken out of winter storage and prepared for camping season in the north.

Blue Bayou

A great time was had by all who went to Houma and enjoyed the rally with the theme Blue Bayou. We enjoyed lots of Cajun food, pet and Mardi Gras parades and lots of games. Congratulations to Matt & Marla Mantia from Illinois the new Retiree King & Queen. Thanks to Dal & Barb Dodson and Tommy & Gail Nelson and their team for putting on a great rally.

Election

This year the candidates for the Trustee positions are all running unopposed. A few years ago the executive board decided that when all candidates are unopposed, ballots need not be mailed. See the March issue for information about Matt Mantia who is the candidate for Vice President Planning and Development, Jan Cushing who is the incumbent candidate for Comptroller and Sue Fromholzer who is the incumbent candidate for Vice President Operations. Their pictures are in next column. Please give these people your support. They will be installed at campvention during the General Membership meeting.

Awards

Hopefully you have someone in mind who should receive an award for their work in FCRV. The different types of awards available and the forms for making the nomination can be found at fcrv.org. Sue Carlsen, our Awards Coordinator is receiving nominations until April 15th.

Logo

Logo merchandise is available through commercial members listed at fcrv.org. It is important that we support our vendors. Karen's Embroidery, Superior Embroidery and Marshall Creations have a variety of logo items that can be ordered and shipped di-

rectly to you.

There are name badges available through Karen's Embroidery and The Sign Man. Both are commercial vendors and contact information can be found at fcrv.org. We have also finally found a flag vendor who makes flags at a reasonable price. Please contact the national office if you are interested in purchasing a flag. Pat or Carl can be reached at 716-668-6242

All Roads Lead to Kansas

Hopefully your road will take you to Hutchinson, Kansas July 8 – 12! Ivalee & Earl Vanderhoff and Gerald Pfirsch and a very hardworking team have put together a great week of fun and fellowship for us. I hope to see you there.

Until the next campfire, Shari

ELECTED CANDIDATES

Vice President Planning and Development

Matt Mantia



Comptroller

Jan Cushing



Vice President Operations

Sue Fromholzer





Retiree Rally 2019

Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center

Houma, Louisiana

March 19-24, 2019 Wrapup



HOUMA WELCOMES 2019 FCRV RETIREE RALLY

Spring welcomed FCRV's 48th Retiree Rally to Houma, Louisiana's Terrebonne Civic Center, March 18 - 24. 94 units and 2 camp passes (190 people, 29 first timers) enjoyed a week of entertainment, activities, and socializing. Rally Coordinators were Dallas and Barb Dodson, assisted by Tommy and Gayle Nelson and Ron and Reba Ray, National Retiree Directors. They hosted a welcome hospitality Monday evening and the full schedule began on Tuesday.

Options for Tuesday were Morning devotions, Exercise with Dick and Kathy Buresh, Line Dance Class with Marla, Bicycle Ride with Bill Stirewalt, Golf with Jim Turner, First Timers Meeting, and Smart Phone Seminar with Jim Lewis. Ron Braley led the Veterans group to the Houma Military Museum and a ride in a landing craft. The afternoon offered a card holder craft, Book Exchange, a seminar on CBD oil, a Veterans meeting, and the ever popular Frog Races Game.



The Rally is OPEN!

The official opening on stage Tuesday evening began with an invocation and National Anthems followed by welcomes from FCRV President, Shari Weber, Civic Center Service Manager, Brian Detellier, and Angela Moorhead from the Tourist Bureau. Vice President of Programs, George Walters and Comptroller Jan Cushing were introduced and 2018 International Retiree King and Queen, Bill and Penny Ramlow cut the ribbon making the rally officially open

Past Retiree Kings and Queens attending were introduced including Peter Brown FL 1997, John & Delores Derrick SC 2004, Ronald & Jo Hersom IA 2007, Leon & LaNelle Ishmael SC 2012, Tommy & Alice Garner GA 2013, Dick & Kathy Buresh TX 2014, Dallas & Barb Dodson MO 2016 and Bill & Penny Ramlow NC, 2018. Ron Hersom introduced the King and Queen Candidates for 2019, Matt & Marla Mantia, Illinois and Steve & Diane Hitchens, Kansas. Present, but not competing were Roger & Cheryl Descoteaux SC and Jim & Mary Hackett NE.

Entertainment was provided by the Cajun Music Preservation Society, a 3 piece combo of fiddle, accordion, and acoustic guitar. They had the audience tapping feet to the authentic traditional Cajun music and a few were motivated to dance. Between numbers the group answered questions and gave the origins of the music. Some door prizes capped the



K&Q Candidates Hitchens & Mantia

evening.

Wednesday's schedule included card bingo, the pet parade, 3-13 game, Mardi Gras mask craft, hillbilly golf, Illinois hospitality, and variety show rehearsal. The commercial area was open all week with Cheryl Belanger Jewelry, Skymed, Karen's Embroidery & Badges, Campvention Registration and an ice cream vendor opened after entertainment. Following Illinois hospitality, there were extra cupcakes left. FCRVers offered them to the Houma Police Department and they sent an officer over and gladly accepted the offer.



No donuts in Houma, just CUPCAKES!



Craig & Kip "Take Me to HOUMA"

A lively evening of entertainment was provided by the seasoned five man group, Seabrook. They played a satisfying wide range of styles from Sam Cook to Ed Sheeran. Audience members were invited to dance and did so, both fast and slow willingly. A rousing Mardi Gras mix inspired a march line stretching around the hall and the closing song, "God Bless the U.S.A." was a fitting close to the almost 2 hour show. After the final bow, the piano player accompanied Craig Weber and Kip Cushing on a humorous rendition of a song they wrote, "Take Me to Houma" to the tune of "Take Me Home Country Roads."

Thursday's activities included a Skymed seminar, state / provincial group pictures, Holding Tank seminar, Choir practice, Full Timers seminar and meeting, Kansas hospitality, Washer toss, and dinner provide by Head 'N Tails Catering. Al and David Jurek were in charge of meals.



Chaplain Braley officiating

The evening program began with the annual Memorial Service for members who passed away during the past year. Chaplain Harold Braley presented the message "Moving Through Life" and the Choir, led by Kip Cushing and accompanied by Craig Weber sang 5 hymns prior to the reading of the names by Linda Hennie. George Walters played "Taps."



FCRV Choir at Memorial Service



."Blown With the Wind"

After an intermission to reset the stage, MC, George Walters kicked off the FCRV Variety show with a rousing version of "Sweet Caroline" with audience participation. The following participants then entertained: The SC Palmetto Players – skit "Blown With the Wind", Bill Stirewalt- stories, Beth Standiford – "Jambalaya", "She's Got You", Craig Weber – "Scott Joplin Ragtime", John Derrick – "Five Foot Two", "If You Knew Suzy" (to a standing ovation), Donna Powell – "Precious Memories", The Parking Committee – skit – 'Fashion Show', Kip Cushing - "Everybody Loves Somebody Sometime", Phil & Gloria Stenberg – 'Hospital Skit', Jo Hershorn, "Symbols on the Dollar Bill", Marla Mantia & Friends – Line Dancing to "Mama Rock Me." Following tradition, all the performers came back on stage to close the show with "God Bless America." Folks stuck around for door prizes and 'Karaoke with Kip.'



John Derrick got a standing ovation

Friday was another busy day with the Hard Hat Breakfast with speaker, Dr. Gary LaFleur of Nichols State University describing how the changes in coastal lands over the centuries have affected the Native American Tribes living there. Tommy and Alice Garner hosted. At the Red Hat Luncheon Dora Lewis was selected as “Queen Mum for a Day” and readings of “I’m Too young to be This Old” and “When I Grow up I Want to be an Old Woman.” Dianne Buggein hosted. Also scheduled were Skip-Bo and a preview of the summer Trav-a-long by Barb & Jim Turner.

The afternoon featured fun with the Mardi Gras Costume Contest organized by Gerry Dantin with 35 entries. 1st place - Marla Mantia, 2nd – Paul Wallinger – 3rd Steve & Diane Hitchens. This was followed by the ice cream social



Mardi Gras Costume winners

Reba and Ron Ray led the annual Retiree Meeting and urged everyone to attend the 2020 Retiree Rally at the Peanut Festival Fairgrounds in Dothan, Alabama, March 24 – 30. The facility is new and has a kitchen. Pumping is available. Look for the registration form in Camping Today and the FCRV website. A brief discussion was held on moving the dates for future rallies into April. The possibility will be explored. Shari Weber invited everyone to the Campvention in Kansas this July.



Johnny Cumbo joined The 'C'

Friday evening on stage, Dale Cummings, known as ‘The C’ took everyone on a journey to Rock and Roll Heaven revisiting Elvis, Ricky, Fats, Buddy, Roy, Conway and others still with us. His energetic style, pleasant personality, flexible voice, and dance moves had the audience singing along and dancing. He ventured into the audience to sing to a few special ladies and Johnny Cumbo joined him on stage for a Temptations song. ‘The C’ sang one song particularly appropriate for this rally since so many cup cakes were served during the week – “Mathilda” by Cookie and the Cupcakes.

Prior to the Thank You hospitality presented by outgoing Retiree Kin& Queen, Bill and Penny Ramlow, Ron Braley drew the number for the Veterans sponsored 50/50 with proceeds of \$170 going to the Military Museum in Houma.

Saturday morning’s Flea Market was bustling with FCRV selling crafts and ‘treasures’. The afternoon was dedicated to several serious rounds of Bean Bag Baseball. Last team standing was Sasnak, a mix of Kansas and others. The second of two catered dinners was served at 5:30 and everyone was back in the hall at 7 for the crowning of 2019 International Retiree King and Queen.

Ronald and Jo Hersom once again introduced the two candidates, Matt & Marla Mantia, IL and Steve & Diane Hutchins, KS as well as 2018 King & Queen, Bill & Penny Ramlow who recounted their year. They said they would like to have attended more state retiree campouts, but health problems intervened. Voted as FCRV International Retiree King & Queen were the Mantias. After receiving, pins, sashes and crowns, Matt & Marla thanked everyone and said they enjoyed participating and the fun at the rally.



Moment of Crowning

Dale Cummings provided music for the evening starting with the K&Q first dance to “Young Love”. Others eventually joined them on the dance floor and the reception party was underway. A little later, fin-



YARS Reception

ger foods were served and YARS “Captain” Jerry Zimmerman led the current and past Kings and Queens to the tables. YARS Chapter hosted the reception and gave everyone a light-up wrist band as they came through the line. Cummings kept the music going and people enjoyed dancing for nearly 3 hours.

Sunday began as a quiet final day with a Non Denominational Church service. At noon a thank you luncheon was held for the rally staff. Dodsons, Rays, and Nelsons thanked the 43 committees who volunteered for the various necessary jobs. Later in the afternoon a hospitality was held for the 2020 Retiree Rally in Dothan Alabama. Tommy and Gayle Nelson will be the coordinators.



K&Q get first dance



Gloria & Ashley Taylor have successfully chaired the FCRV Food Bank for 18 years.

Sunday evening started with Ashley and Gloria Taylor presenting the 97 blankets donated by FCRV members to the Hope Pregnancy Center and the Houma Food Bank. \$1,120 in cash donations also went to the food bank. The Taylors were congratulated for their 18 years of chairing the FCRV Food Bank and raising over \$30,000. Lawrence Dehart accepting for the Houma Food Bank noted that his parents were members of NCHA when he was growing up.

Games awards were presented by Bill and Margaret Alderman and their helpers. (results in separate article). Dick Buresh announced that 2 bicyclists covered 26.5 miles, 36 walkers covered 98 miles and 19 did line dancing as part of the C.A.M.P. Program.

Then came the last blast of enthusiasm with the International Parade of states, provinces, and specialty chapters. Afterward a sense of quiet satisfaction filled the hall as the Flags were retired from the stage and Chaplain Braley offered a closing prayer. Dal Dodson closed the rally with another thanks to all who made it a success and a wish for safe travels.

2019 RETIREE GOLF TEAMS

1st

Roger Hall	AL
Craig Weber	IL
Ron Ray	GA

2nd

George Freeman	AL
George Hoyland	CO
Jim Turner	FL

3rd

Gene Beasley	AL
Tommy Garner	GA
George Reynolds	NC

Long Drive George Reynolds NC



FCRV's Veterans took part in the International Parade.

MANTIAS NAMED 2019 INTERNATIONAL RETIREE KING & QUEEN



Matt and Marla Mantia from Bradley, Illinois have been elected by family Campers & RVers members at the 2019 Retiree Rally in Houma, Louisiana, March 23rd. The Mantias joined FCRV in 2008 and are members of the Kankakee Valley Wanderers Chapter. Matt is an FCRV

Field Director, and current President of the Illinois State Retiree Chapter.

Matt said of his experience with FCRV, “ When we went to our first Campvention and our first Retiree Rally we were really hooked. We met so many new friends and had so much fun that we have volunteered at every Campvention and Retiree Rally we attend.”

Matt and Marla have volunteered for Security, Red Hats, Hard Hats, Food Bank, Goodie Bags, and Trams. Matt is retired from the Chicago Transit Authority where he was Superintendant. He was also Safety Manager at First Transit. He is a Veteran of the U.S. Army. He was recently elected to FCRV’s Executive Board as Vice President of Planning and Development in charge of Membership, Commercial, and Marketing. Both Matt and Marla are active in their church.

Marla is retired from the State of Illinois Department of Unemployment Insurance. She enjoys line dancing (where the couple met), but her favorite role is that of a homebody and baby sitter for her 4 year old identical twins, Isabella and Liam who were born prematurely and needed extra care.

This is the second marriage for both and they have been married for 13 years and have 3 sons and one daughter between them plus 11 grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Matt added, “Our extended family lives within an hour of each other and we get together quite often and we love it! We are looking

forward to our year as International Retiree King and Queen.”

VETERANS VISIT HOUMA MILITARY MUSEUM

I would like to thank all of the Veterans that made it to Houma. We had a good time, made new friends, and made a donation to the Regional Military Museum in Houma. More pictures next month or check our facebook page, FCRV Veterans.

Thanks,
Ron Braley
FCRV International Veterans Program Director



2019 HOUMA RETIREE RALLY GAMES

By Bill & Margaret Alderman

FROG RACES – 1st Dennis Hines KS

CARD BINGO - \$50 awarded

3- 13 – 1st Sally Hatfield GA 2nd Gloria Steinberg NY

HILBILL GOLF MEN – 1st Jerry Zimmerman CT , Roger Hall AL, 2nd Roger Descoteaux ,Phil Rich SC

WOMEN – 1st Ida Roberts NV, Deborah Roberts NV, 2nd Pat Hall AL, Mary Funk OH

MIXED – 1st Ida & Rich Roberts NV, 2nd Jerry Zimmerman CT, Cheryl Descoteaux SC

WASHER TOSS MEN - 1st Craig Weber IL, John Jordan CT, 2nd Jerry Zimmerman, Roger Hall AL

CHICKEN FOOT - 1st Joan Jordan CT, 2nd Bob Hatfield GA

SKIP BO – 1st Vette Freeman AL, Jerry Zimmerman CT

BEAN BAG BASEBALL – 1st “SASNAK” – Robbie Smith Phyllis Smith KS, Bob Kanya, Janet Kanya OH, Vickie Combs TX, JoAnn Wallinger WI, George Freeman AL, Karen Brown FL

2nd – “3 PEATS” Richard Roberts, Jim Roberts, Deborah Roberts, Ida Marie Roberts NV, Jerry Zimmerman CT, Stan Shaw, Laura Shaw NE, Gary Hall, Jeannie Hall NE



BB BASEBALL 1. "SASNAK"



2. "3 PEATS"

2019 PET PARADE

By Robert & Rita Letellier

16 Entries

Best Costume - #13 – Patrick – Cindy Reid

Most Adorable - #10 – Amy Jo – Brenda Felter

Best Trick - #12 – Angel – Cindi Reid

Best Behaved - #1 Marlee – Lanelle Ishmael

Best of Show - \$6 - MaryElle – Jack & Pat Thomas

Best of Show Cat - #8 Angel – Jan Cushing



L- R - Dave & Betty Reid, LaNelle Ishmael, Pat Thomas, Jan Cushing, Brenda Felter



YEAR OF THE CUPCAKE

2019 was the year of the cupcake in Louisiana at the Retiree Rally. Cupcakes were served at several activities. Too bad Guinness Book of World Records wasn't there. A new way to eat cupcakes without getting frosting all over your face was discovered. Break off the upper half of the cupcake and turn it upside down with frosting in the middle like a sandwich



JERRY ZIMMERMAN'S YEAR

This was Jerry Zimmerman's year. He won first place in hillbilly golf, won the drawing for a free 2019 Campvention registration, his team came in 2nd in Bean Bag Baseball, and he got to play the pirate captain at the K&Q reception.



AERIAL PICTURE OF RETIREE RALLY

Reba Ray submitted this drone view of the RR taken by her nephew.







**SUBMITTING ITEMS FOR
THE FCRV WEBSITE**
www.fcrv.org

By Vickie Roop, Website Editor

If you visited the FCRV website you'll see that it has been redesigned and looks very nice. We hired a company to redesign the website which involved moving it to their server. This move meant I would have less to do with the website and allowed more time for Camping Today. This has also meant a different way items for the website are handled. Items should still be sent to me first. I will then keep a copy and forward it to the gal that takes care of our website. This means there will be some delay in your items appearing on the website. I don't check to see when your item appears on the website and notify you as I did before. Since the company is located in Washington, there is a time difference and thus it may be a day or so before your item will appear on the website. I would advise you to check after a day or two and if the item does not appear let me know and I will check to make sure they received it. The end of the month is a busy time for me as I'm working on getting Camping Today together so there may be a little delay in me picking up email and getting items sent. If after a couple of days you don't see your item on the website, please let me know so I can check on it.

If you have any question, please let me know. I'll be happy help you if I can

SUBMITTING AN ARTICLE FOR



By Vickie Roop, Camping Today Graphic Design/Layout

DeWayne Johnston, Camping Today Editor, and I are glad to be able to give our members a magazine for them to enjoy. We appreciate when our members submit articles or pictures for us to use in the magazine. We are happy to show other members what activities are happening in other parts of the organization as well as recognizing those who reach a milestone or receive recognition for something, even outside our organization. Basic information on upcoming campouts can be placed in the Upcoming Events section of the Camping Today. Registration blanks for larger events such as State /Provincial and Re-

gional Campouts will be placed on the FCRV website. Campvention and Retiree Rally registration pages are added to the magazine.

Below are some guidelines we'd like you to follow to make it a little easier for us when putting the Camping Today together.

1. Articles should be submitted no later than the 10th of the month prior to publishing the next month. (May10th for June publication). They should be sent to DeWayne (d_johnston01@outlook.com) and also me (fcrvwebsite@aol.com). That way if something happens to one of our emails, the item will still be received and make the magazine.
2. The article should be typed in a word processing document and not sent in a pdf file. It helps if Times New Roman size 12 type is used.

We always appreciate pictures of events or activities where our members participate.

We hope this helps you understand submitting items to us and we look forward to having many articles and pictures of the happenings in FCRV and our members.



C.A.M.P.



What is CAMP (C.A.M.P.) ??

It stands for Campers Actively Moving Program

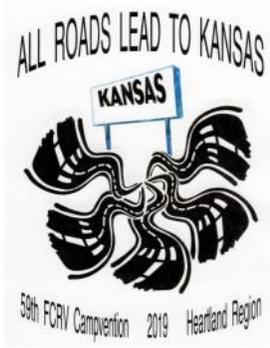
Spring will be upon us shortly and Campouts will increase. This means more opportunities for chapters to schedule C.A.M.P activities (Walking/ Running, Biking, Line Dancing, etc.)

As C.A.M.P. Directors Kathy and I would like to encourage setting these activities up. It not only gets people involved but is good for our bodies. We hope to see many of you at the upcoming Campvention in Hutchinson, KS

Dick and Kathy Buresh
fcrv.campdir@gmail.com

Dick Cell 651-491-8763
Kathy Cell 651-491-8764





Campvention 2019

Kansas State Fairgrounds

Hutchinson, KS

July 7-12, 2019

2019 INTERNATIONAL CAMPVENTION

Ivalee Vanderhoff, Campvention Co-Chair

We are getting ready for everyone to head towards Kansas in July. It doesn't matter what your route is, there are always so many great things to see as you travel. We have tried to plan a variety of activities for you to choose from plus take some time to see some of our local specialties. If you have a band instrument, do bring it and help out the band. If you enjoy jams, be sure to bring your singing voice and your instrument to play in the outdoor jams at the nice shady area.

Do print the confirmation letter you will be receiving in May. That will speed up the registration. Also, please follow the directions there. It will make it easier for you and everyone else to come in and get off of the street.

The driveways and streets are all paved roads so if you have a scooter, you should not have any problems getting to the buildings. There is plenty of room for any bikes and other modes of transportation as long as you are going slowly. There is also plenty of parking areas at the buildings.

Are there some in your chapter that have never attended an International Campvention? Bring them with you so that they can experience all that is offered by the organization. It seems there is always someone saying, I don't get anything out of the organization and a lot of the times, they are not very involved. Let's get them involved. See you in July in Hutchinson, KS. (Remember air-conditioned buildings.)



COMMUNICATIONS & SECURITY

by David & Rita Blair, Communication & Security Chairs

Hello, everyone. Let me introduce myself, I'm David Blair, the new Communication & Security Chairman for FCRV. Our need for Security volunteers was filled for our Retiree Rally, but we need volunteers for Campvention 2019 in Hutchinson, KS. My phone number is 972-965-4033, if you would like to help. My email address is ritadave2369@aol.com.

FIRST-TIMERS

by Beverly Risius, Chair



I would like to welcome all the first timers who plan on attending National FCRV Campvention this year. I look forward to meeting all of you. Please check your program for information about a meeting for all first timers. It will be a fun time to get to know others attending, have questions answered, enjoy some snacks and conversation, and other fun activities. We want you to enjoy your time at this Campvention and want to help in anyway in we can.



CAMPVENTION CHOIR/ CHURCH SERVICE

Mary Borton, Chair

Join us Sunday evening for vespers (a non-denominational church service).

Like to sing? Please come to choir practice Sunday afternoon to familiarize yourself with the music

we will sing at the vespers service.

Times and locations will be announced at a later date.



TABS! TABS! TABS!

Mary Borton, Chair

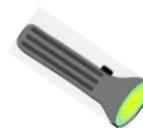
Don't forget to bring your aluminum tabs to Campvention! I will be collecting the tabs on Monday and Tuesday.

- Hair Ties
- Computer Paper
- Chip Clips
- Chocolate Syrup
- Disposable Aluminum Pans (9x13)

DOOR PRIZES NEEDED

Florence Fox, Chair;
Diane Hitchens, Co-Chair

Door prizes are needed to be brought to Campvention for our committee to give away to the lucky ones receiving one. Thanks for your support as we are looking for prizes from each state & province.



INFORMAL MUSIC JAM AT CAMPVENTION

Ed & Kathy Hurley

We will be having informal music jams at Campvention. Details of time and location will be available at registration. Please bring your guitars, fiddles, and any instruments you play and join the fun at our informal music jams. Come to play, sing, or just to listen. If questions, contact Ed Hurley at cell phone #956-376-0008 or ekhurley@gmail.com.



CONSERVATION & CAMPING IS POSTERS

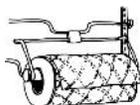
By Ronald & Jo Hersom



National is the time to bring your State or Provincial poster winners for judging at our National FCRV Campvention. All ages can enter the Conservation contest. Camping IS is for the youth groups. A conservation or Camping theme of your choice is up to you. Conservation posters need to be on 22" x 28" poster board. Camping IS, use the pre outlined sheet to color that can be down loaded. Have the Director for your Chapter sign on the lower left corner of the back. Your name and age as of July 1st and Chapter. Prizes include ribbons and cash awards. Hope to see lots of posters at Hutchinson.



RONALD McDONALD HOUSE WISH LIST



Don't buy aluminum cans? You can still help Ronald McDonald House out by donating cash or items from their Wish List. They will also accept NEW blankets for the kids and NEW stuffed animals (smaller size preferred).

Ronald McDonald House of Wichita, KS, Wish List

Priority Needs:

- Gift cards for Walmart, Dillion's, Target & Office Max for purchasing Items needed for operations
- Coffee (Grounds & K-cup)
- Individual Snack, Crackers, and Chips
- Laundry Soap (HE)
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Deodorant

Wish List Items:

- Fruit, Jell-O, & Pudding Cups
- Cookie / Muffin Mix
- Frosting
- Pepper
- Disposable Cups & Bowls
- Disposable Razors (Men's/Women's)
- Paper Towels
- Crock Pot Liners
- Multipurpose Spray
- Travel Size Shampoo & Conditioner



FCRV NATIONAL WILDLIFE

By Joanie Stone, National Wildlife Director

Are you working on your WILDLIFE GRANT application which needs to be to me by May 30, 2019. The application needs to follow our National Wildlife rules. The application is on internet under wildlife. Please have a letter come with app from the organization's letterhead and background info regarding the purpose for the grant.

Our mission for FCRV'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE grants are to educate, provide habitat, and inspire individuals to preserve our natural habitat and wildlife for future generations to enjoy. So if you haven't got started on writing for a grant, now is the time. Hope to receive many grants this year.

MESSAGE FROM MISS FCRV

Fellow Campers,

We have endured this long, snowy, and cold winter! This winter has shown me how much I miss camping and spending time with you guys. I cannot wait to get back in the swing of things and enjoying potluck suppers, roasting s'mores, and campfires with everyone.



I have been busy in many aspects this year starting with being more involved at my school and with my church on campus. I have taken a more active role in volunteering through many student organizations and I have been busy attending many cultural events as well. I recently helped at two chili cook-offs to help raise money to provide health care supplies to underdeveloped countries as well as to send students on a mission trip.

I am so excited that our camper will be coming out of storage soon so we can go camping again! I hope you all can attend many campouts this year, and if your chapter is hosting one of their own please let me know because I would love to attend. I wish everyone safe and blessed travels.

Eternally grateful,
Katie Kurburski
Miss FCRV 2018



D.A.S.A.T.

THE PAPER ISSUE

By Joe Boswell, National DASAT Dir.

Awareness, a simple word, simply defined as having knowledge. So, think of it this way, the more you know the more knowledgeable you have become. Where is all of this going? Well, when was the last time you fully understood the indicator lights on your RV when it comes to all of your household systems. For example, one may tell you how much water you have on board, another the power of your batteries, etc.

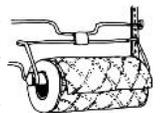
By far the most important indicators on your RV are the ones for the gray and black water tanks. The sensors on these tanks may give you an indication that the tanks are full when in deed they are not.

These are the ones used most often that give you a false sense of urgency. Let us address this straight forward. When was the last time you properly disposed of the contents in both your gray and black water tanks? Everyone knows that you need to open and drain the black waste tank first followed by the gray water tank. Doing this in this order allows the solids (the black water) to pass first followed by the gray water, which helps to clean out the drainage system and your sewer hose. When the tanks have been emptied this should be followed by fresh water by using a holding tank rinser, or black tank flushing device to make sure all has passed successfully. Many of our newer RV have a rinse connection that will help in this process. If done correctly all tanks should be clean and ready for the next trip. Hold on now are the tanks truly empty. May be, maybe not.

What? Lets' look at these more closely to see why the indicator lights may register a full tank or partially full tank when in essence you have completely drained them.

My friends, what have you put down into the systems that can clog up the pipes or stick to the indicators? (This information also applies to the sewer system in your home.)

Do not put the following items down the drain because they can clog up the pipes in your RV and or home sewer systems. Paper is the biggest culprit. Yes, friends toilet paper to be exact, followed by paper towels, sanitary





napkins, grease, oil, dirty diapers, dirt, hair, food waste, small objects, cotton swabs, dental floss, moist handy wipes, diaper wipes, coffee grounds, stickers, and finally band aids. All of the above listed items need to go into a trashcan not down the drain. Hand sanitizer (a gel) is another culprit that does not break down with water, which can cause blockages to your waste system. When you take all of these items and mix them, you are asking for problems down the road. Paper mixed with a gel and other items that are down the drain can create a backup that will be difficult to dislodge. This could be a very messy undertaking to unclog in your RV, or an expensive plumbing bill in your home. To prevent some of the blockages, especially in your black water tank, make sure you have some water in the bottom of the tank before you start to use your RV this will help prevent blockages down the road. Having water in your holding tanks as you travel will help to break down any substances and make it easier to drain your sewer tanks once you arrive at your destination. Folks, it is that simple. Following these suggestions will prevent any problems hopefully in the future. Happy traveling to all.



Note: The April issue of Trailer Life contained a great article explaining the design and proper usage of the various holding tanks build within your RV.

KOA UNVEILS CAMPGROUND OF FUTURE AT RVX EVENT



Kampgrounds of America Inc. (KOA) unveiled the “Campground of the Future,” today (March 12) at [RVX: The RV Experience](#) in Salt Lake City. According to a press release, the “Campground of the Future” concept is a series of interactive animated illustrations that immerse viewers into a campground in the year 2030. This includes expanded technology offerings, sustainably constructed sites and facilities, and campgrounds engulfed within nature.

A few key features of the display include:

- Forest, mountain, urban, coastal and desert campgrounds nestled into the surrounding envi-

ronment.

- Automated site selection and check in.
- Retractable roofs on cabins.
- On-site automated voice command technology for ordering services, signing up for experiences or delivery of necessities such as firewood.
- On-site recreation activities including hiking trails directly from the campground, enhanced water features and gathering spaces for groups.

Forecasting is based on KOA’s 55-plus years in leading the outdoor hospitality industry, expertise in campground innovation and design, and understanding of camper preferences and trends through the [North American Camping Report \(NACR\)](#), the company’s annual research initiative. The forward-looking concept builds upon KOA’s in-depth insights on the evolution of camping, which has measured how access to technology and especially social media while camping, has helped eliminate barriers to camping for those who are new to the activity.

After five years of surveying North American campers, the 2019 NACR shows the camping landscape is strong. New and lifelong campers are committed to the outdoor camping lifestyle as demonstrated by their diversity, camping more frequently and enthusiasm for using camping as a conduit to active outdoor lifestyles.

“With the increase in camping popularity comes a greater need to ensure the longevity of camping through smart design and preservation of nature,” said KOA’s newly named CEO Toby O’Rourke. “We believe that thoughtful use of technology and devotion to sustainably growing camping offerings will meet the increased expectations of campers, while further enhancing that connection with nature that camping provides.”

Several of the features displayed at the Campground of the Future exhibit already exist and are being actively tested on KOA campgrounds. Since 2010, KOA has encouraged its franchisees and campers to adopt eco-friendly practices through its Kamp Green program, with eco-solutions being deployed across North America.

“We have a massive solar parasol structure that covers two acres of RV sites at our Tucson/Lazydays KOA Resort in Arizona,” O’Rourke added. “That structure supplies more than enough power for the campground, while providing partial cooling shade for the RVs parked beneath it. That’s just one example of the futuristic steps that are already being

taken.”

The Campground of the Future can be experienced digitally at www.campthefuture.com. For more information about Campgrounds of America, visit KOA.com.



Preparing Your RV for Spring Camping

By Chelsea Barron in Education

There’s no reason you can’t start preparing yourself by learning exactly what you’ll need to do to your RV once the sun thaws the winter snow and ice.

Read more [HERE](#).

<https://mobilerv.com/blog/preparing-your-rv-for-spring-camping>

FCRV Activities

SPRING FSA RALLY

The Spring Florida State Association Rally will be May 3-5, at Southern Oaks RV Resort, 14140 SE US Hwy441, Summerfield, FL 34491.

Please call the campground at (352) 347-2550 to make your reservation to camp with Florida State Association.

If you have any questions, please call Cecil Baker at (813)988-4213

FCRV WELCOMES OUR
NEW COMMERCIAL MEMBER'S

Bluebonnet RV Resort 3366 N Bentsen Palm Dr, Mission TX.
If you are thinking of ever going to Texas for the winter,
and like Camping with other FCRV members and making friends then this is for you.
Bring a copy of this ad.

Under New Management!

2019-2020

SEASON SPECIAL!

RV

This special must be booked by March 30th, 2019.
Requires a \$200.00 deposit.

Bluebonnet RV Resort
3366 N. Bentsen Palm Rd.
Mission, Texas. 78574

\$299.00 A MONTH!

Get your 4th month Free!
Plus Elect. @ .13KWPH

3 month minimum.
Paid in full upon arrival.

Come join our family!

Many New Upgrades are here and more coming soon!

*Reserve your site today!
Come by the office or call
(956)585-7630.*

FCRV MEMBERS RECEIVE ADDITIONAL 5% OFF!

Products

HOEFER GROUP ROLLS OUT AZZERO LIGHTWEIGHT TRAILER

Courtesy of RV Business



Hoefer Group, headed by Charles Hoefer and his wife Andrea Kine, is developing patents on a next generation ultralight platform suitable for mass production at mid-market pricing, according to a press release.

The company, based in Eswatini in Africa, unveiled the Hoefer Azzero this past weekend in Johannesburg, South Africa with attendance over 25,000.

Built on a shock-dissipating body and chassis and capable to withstand the harsh, unpaved terrain of South Africa, Namibia and Botswana, the Azzero is 2,205 pounds lighter than its nearest competition for size and capability, according to the release.

Azzero's weight includes two refrigerators, an air conditioner, premium memory gel mattress, and a matching full sized spare 4x4 tire. The interior layout includes three separate rooms connected by interior passage doors, an outside kitchen and two double beds.

The Azzero is the first of a series of ultralight products Hoefer Group is planning to launch in the near future, and the company is starting a global hiring initiative to relocate skilled craftsmen and women to the Eswatini factory.

Hoefer stated, "We are very pleased with the way Azzero was received by the South African market, and we view South Africa as the perfect proving ground for our technologies. If our products can thrive on these roads, they will go anywhere." The boxy body structure is a retro-inspired design offers an aerodynamic package suitable for towing with smaller SUVs, sedans and crossovers.

"Most people think a box cannot run with highway stability, but we eliminated most points of turbulence. In particular, the whole roof is slanted for downforce, and lateral stabilizers are built into the chassis. The underbelly is clean with spare tire and tanks above the floor," said Hoefer. "Tests with four - and five-cylinder SUVs like Land Rover Discovery, Toyota Fortuner, and Ford Everest show stable towing at 80 mph without towing aids."

Retail pricing on the Hoefer Azzero Premium All Terrain less value added tax that is approximately \$36,500.

THOR INDUSTRIES MODERNIZING RVING WITH REBRAND

Thor Industries Inc., the world's largest recreational vehicle (RV) manufacturer, has shed its corporate look in favor of a fresh, consumer-friendly approach. For the first time in the company's 30-year history, Thor is rolling out a complete rebrand for 2019



"We are at a pivotal moment in the RV industry and it felt like the perfect time for THOR to think forward," said Bob Martin, president and CEO of THOR Industries, in a press release. "With our core values still in place, we are excited to explore new ways for consumers to experience the incredible outdoors with our best-in-class products."

To accomplish the rebrand, THOR is executing a three-point strategy. First, the company is breaking down consideration barriers between consumers and RVs with educational resources, featuring informative content and practical tools that make researching an RV easier than ever. Thor is also working diligently to remind consumers that it owns 24 of the largest and most recognizable brands in Rving as part of its digital and communication plans. Finally, the company is inserting itself into the larger outdoor recreation industry by supporting worthy partners and having constant, meaningful engagement with the current and future generations of campers.

“We wanted to reach consumers by rethinking the spirit of Thor and RVing as a whole,” said James Rigney, head of marketing for Thor. “This is a complete brand overhaul — top to bottom — and we look forward to giving people a better look into who we are and what we do.”

The rebrand includes an all-new company tagline meant to illustrate that Thor is synonymous with outdoor recreation: “Go Everywhere, Stay Anywhere.” In just four words, it “describes everything about the RV experience and what Thor contributes to it,” the release stated. The redesign also includes a new logo as well as an overhauled color palette that evokes nature.

Consumers will also notice changes in how Thor speaks to its audience. The company will rely more heavily on data, analytics and insights to ensure it is a true resource for avid outdoorsmen and “weekend warriors” alike. Thor differentiates itself from competitors by putting a high value on its ability to provide answers and quality dialogue that will help people learn and try new things, which will also benefit the larger outdoor community.

The evolution of the larger RV industry inspired Thor to refresh its customer approach and adapt to shifting consumer needs while leveraging new technologies and encouraging positive disruption in the space.

With these changes, the company hopes to debunk preconceived notions of RVing and help grow the community of “four-season enthusiasts.” By fostering human connection and discovery through new innovations and data-driven solutions, the company will help to usher in a new era of RV industry growth and make way for future generations of campers.

To see Thor’s new look, please visit

www.thorindustries.com.

TUFFY SECURITY PRODUCTS EXPANDS RAM PRODUCT OFFERINGS TO 2019 MODELS

CORTEZ, Colo. - Tuffy Security Products has introduced a brand new rear under seat lockbox to their

product line. The Model 353 is designed specifically to fit the 2019 RAM pickup, fitting discretely under the 60/40 split bench rear seat.



Offering more than 3,000 cubic inches of lockable storage, the Model 353 features a full-width formfitting design which is completely concealed from view when the seats are lowered. The unique design on the Model 353 allows the full width under the seat to be used to organize and secure anything stored inside. Tuffy also offers an optional feature of twist-to-lock pressure fit dividers specifically created to fit the Model 353, allowing users to further organize the lockbox to suit their needs.

Each lockbox is secured by Tuffy's patented Pry-Guard Locking System with a 10-tumbler, double-bitted security lock with built-in weather seals. Tuffy's Pry-Guard Locking System features 1/8-inch thick welded steel components. The durable lockbox is comprised of 16-gauge steel with a texture powder coat finish to securely store anything locked inside. The weather resistant lid protects the contents from the elements while the exclusive hinging system with a built-in lid stop supports the lid when open.

The lockbox comes complete with an innovative mounting system which can only be accessed from inside the unit. To mount the lockbox under the seats, simply use the OEM hardware on the floor of the truck under the bench seats. No drilling is required to install the Model 353 under the rear seat, so the unit can be quickly installed and removed without tools.

About Tuffy Security Products

Tuffy Security Products safeguard valuable gear with American-made craftsmanship. The full line of Tuffy security solutions provide premium, superior protection against theft, enable safe cargo management, increase gear accessibility and offer the option of flexible keyless lock-entry for multiple users. Tuffy Security Products is a portfolio company of Kinderhook Industries



Farewells

Emma Winonia Martz, 95, 2-11-19 of Colonial Heights, VA, last charter member of Wandering Soles chapter. She and John were Field Directors for 25 years and Winonia served as State Historian as well as Chapter Historian.

Kim Varner (Yost), 3-6-19, Texas, Past TX Teen Queen, State Youth Dir. daughter of Bobby & Charla Yost. Longtime member. CharlaYost@aol.com.

Kathryn Cavers Brule, 3-13-19, Miss NY NCHA 1964, daughter of Bob and Lynda Cavers past NCHA/FCRV Band Director. roberterec@aol.com.

Edward Fisher, 2019, Landisville, PA.

Diny Stellman, 3-19, Brockville, Ontario, Eager Beavers, Glowing Embers, longtime member.

Tom Hamilton, 3-21-19, Texas, Past Pres. TX State Assn., longtime member.

Merv Cripps, 3-23-19, St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada, past OPAaction editor



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 5 – 7, 2019 – Kansas District II Spring Thaw Campout

Winfield, KS at the Fairgrounds. A fun, relaxing weekend and there is a building if the weather turns chilly in the evening. Call 316-655-2970 for more information.

April 26 – 28, 2019 – Kansas District I Campout

Topeka at Capital City KOA, a really nice place to camp. Call 785-862-9053 for more information and plan your route

May 3 – 5, 2019 – Spring Florida State Association Rally

Southern Oaks RV Resort, 14140 SE US Hwy441, Summerfield, FL 34491. Please call the campground at (352) 347-2550 to make your reservation to camp with Florida State Association. Registration form on website www.fcrv.org

May 3 – 5, 2019 – Kansas Campers Association Spring Campout

Winfield Fairgrounds. Everyone is welcome to come and share. Call 316-776-2779 for information

MAY 3-9, 2019 - Blue Water Mini Mixer

Port Huron TWP Park, Port Huron, MI, Saturday pot luck w/ chicken provided. Call park for reservations after April 15 (810-982-6765) See registration blank on website www.fcrv.org.

May 6 – 10, 2019 –Kansas Sunchasers Retirees Campout.

If you came for the State at the Fairgrounds in Winfield, just stay put for the retirees. Or come for just the retirees. Call 620-960-2322 for the details. Come relax.

May 24 – 27, 2019 – NYSA State Campout

Herkimer County Fairgrounds, 133 Cemetery Street, Frankfort, NY 13340 [Take Exit 30 on the NYS Thruway]. The Camping Fee will be covered by NYSA. There will be a \$7.50 activity fee per person to pay for the cost of food and supplies.

Please send payment and completed registration form payable to:

NYSA / NCHA, c/o LINDA STIEGLER, 92 SANDRA DRIVE, CHEEKTOWAGA, NY 14225

Ph: (716) 982-5518 or email: stieglj2@gmail.com Registration form on website www.fcrv.org

May 24 - 27 Wisconsin Get Acquainted Campout

Walworth County Fairgrounds, Elkhorn, WI

June 13-14-15, 2019 - South East Regional Campout

KOA at Lumberton, North Carolina, 1-800-562-0845 1-910-887-6185. Reservation Listed "FCRV" Call as early as possible. Lumberton KOA located just off I-95 Exit 17 on the west side of highway. Registration form on the FCRV website www.fcrv.org

September 27-29, 2019 - Blue Water Mixer,

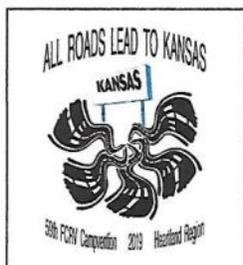
Eastern Michigan Fairgrounds, Imlay City, MI, donrocky64@hotmail.com. See Registration Form on website www.fcrv.org.



HAPPY CAMPING

We hope to see you
at a camping event!

Please send us pictures and
articles of camping activities at a
chapter/district/state/province
campout. We'd love to share the
fun with our FCRV family!



59th INTERNATIONAL CAMPVENTION
FAMILY CAMPERS & Rver's
 Hosted by the Heartland Region # 2
"ALL ROADS LEAD TO KANSAS"
 Kansas State Fairgrounds, 2000 North Poplar St.
 Hutchinson, KS 67502
Campvention Days: July 8 – 12, 2019 fees covers
 July 7 – 12 (6 nights)



Early Bird Days: July 5 & 6, 2019 @ \$25 / night (pay @ registration – cash/check)

Registrations are needed by: June 1, 2019

There will be room for you if you decide to come at the last minute.
 Just bring this registration with you. We want everyone to come see us!!!

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____ **Spouse/Guest:** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **ST/PRV:** ___ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone #: _____ **e-mail:** _____

Is this your first Campvention? Yes ___ No ___ Send my confirmation letter in PDF: Yes ___ No ___

Number of people in your unit:

Of Adults: ___ Teens: ___ Youth 9 – 12 ___ Youth 5 – 8 ___ Young Adults ___ Total number of people in Unit: ___

Please list the names and ages of all Teens and Youth:

Name	Age	Name	Age

CAMPVENTION PARKING:

The gates will be open all days from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The first 211 registrations will be parked in the full hook up sites. All others will be parked with water & electric. If you are not registered prior to arrival, you will be in a water & electric site. The full hook up area has paved streets and gravel parking sites. The water & electric sites are in grass areas. Tent sites are available in grass with shade and close to the shower house.

Special Needs Information:

Check if you are requesting a special needs site: ___ There will be no special needs sites available at the gate.

REGISTRATION:

Everyone must complete a registration form including second families and camp passes. Submit payment with the registration form. All funds should be US currency of checks or money orders. **NO CREDIT CARDS.**

	<u>Registration</u>	<u>At Gate</u>
One Family in the Unit	\$300.00	\$310.00
Extra Family in the Unit (separate pay)	\$150.00	\$160.00
Week Drive-in Pass (July 7 – 12)	\$175.00	\$185.00
Walk-in Camp Pass (per day)	\$35.00 Per Day	Same
Motor Home ___ 5 th Wheel ___ Travel Trailer ___ Pop-Up ___ Want in shade trees ___		

THINGS TO SEE AND DO AROUND HUTCHINSON:

Cosmosphere (Smithsonian-affiliated Space Museum), Strataca (a salt mine museum), Yoder (a Amish community), Hutchinson Zoo, Dillon Nature Center, Hedrick Exotic Animal Farm, Soldiers & Sailors Memorial, Reno County Museum, Kansas Kids Museum, Reno County Veterans Memorial, Salt Discovery Site & Memorial Marker,

Make checks payable to: 2019 FCRV Campvention

Mail to: Keith Koontz
2224 Woodland St
Wichita, KS 67204-5938

Refund policy: If you are unable to attend, all except \$ 25 will be refunded

Contact them at: 316-655-2970 or k.koontz@sbcglobal.net

We would like to volunteer for: _____



**49TH FCRV INTERNATIONAL
RETIREE RALLY
NATIONAL PEANUT FAIRGROUNDS
DOTHAN, ALABAMA
EARLY DAYS: MARCH 20th – 23rd
RALLY DAYS: MARCH 24th – 30th**



LAST NAME: _____ FIRST: _____ SPOUSE/OTHER: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST/PROVINCE: _____ ZIP/POSTAL: _____

OTHER'S ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT: _____ CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP/POSTAL: _____

PHONE #: _____ OTHER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ CONFIRMATION SENT: pdf: _____ word: _____ mailed _____

CONFIRMATION LETTERS WILL BE SENT OUT BY EMAIL IN JANUARY. IF YOU WISH IT SENT BY MAIL TO A DIFFERENT ADDRESS THAN THE ONE ABOVE, PLEASE SUPPLY THE ADDRESS BELOW:

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST/PROVINCE: _____ ZIP: _____

WHICH ARE YOU REGISTERING FOR? CAMPING: _____ CAMP PASS: _____ IS THIS YOUR FIRST RETIREE RALLY? YES: _____ NO: _____

ARE YOU A VETERAN: YES: _____ NO: _____ NUMBER OF VETERANS IN YOUR UNIT? _____

SPECIAL NEEDS PARKING: TO BE PARKED IN SPECIAL NEEDS (HANDICAPPED) AREA, YOU MUST HAVE ON FILE WITH THE REGISTRAR AN UP-TO DATE: DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATE, STATE LICENSE REGISTRATION INCLUDING HANDICAP PLATE, OR HANDICAP PLACARD. THIS AREA IS RESERVED FOR WHEELCHAIRS, WALKERS, OR THOSE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY PROBLEMS: _____

GUESTS ARE WELCOME: Guests or Non-FCRV members are welcome. They can be in your unit or their own. Have them complete a registration form, indicate they are your guests and send the correct amount. We strongly suggest they enter the camping area at the same time you do. We are guests or NON-FCRV members of:

RALLY FEES:

EARLY BIRD DAYS: (MARCH 20 - 23) FEE \$30 PER NIGHT WITH WATER AND ELECTRIC AND WILL BE COLLECT AT DOTHAN.

RALLY FEE- MARCH 24 - 30 AND LEAVE ON MONDAY: INCLUDES: 6 nights of camping with water and electric, Ice Cream Social, two evening meals, entertainment and all activities connected with the Rally.

	PRE-REGISTRATION (PAID IN ADVANCE FULL)	AT THE GATE:
Two people in a unit:	\$250	\$275
Single person in unit:	\$220	\$245
Camp Pass or 3 rd person in unit:	\$100	

REFUND POLICY: REFUNDS MUST BE REQUESTED IN WRITING BY MAIL, EMAIL OR PHONE CALL TO THE REGISTRAR. REFUNDS WILL NOT BE PAID UNTIL AFTER THE RALLY. Refunds requested before March 15' 2020, will receive the following: two people in a unit: \$225, one person in a unit will receive \$195. Camp Pass will receive no refunds.

Make checks or money order (US Currency) payable to: FCRV/NCHA RETIREE RALLY 2020. NO CREDIT CARDS. Mail to Bill and Penny Ramlow, 8371 Night Owl DR, Riverview, FL. 33569. .You can contact them at: 305-822-6589 or 813-545-6083 or email them at pramlow@aol.com

I would like to volunteer for: _____