



Trail Notes

November
2022

*For the Ken-Ton-A-Wanderer's
Chapter 74 of the Family Campers & RV'ers*

WITTMeyERS WONDERFUL WORDS OF WISDOM

Having a camping club gives us a circle of friends to camp with outside our own families. While individual camping is still an option, camping with friends can be fun as its own social activity which would include games, shared meals, hiking options, day trips, brewery/winery visits, etc.

With that in mind, Ken-Ton is revitalizing the idea of chapter meetings to get members all the pertinent information about upcoming campouts and events, and for brainstorming over ways to make our group attractive to new members so we continue to be a vital center of group camping in Western New York.

We can also have non-camping group activities like a Christmas party, go bowling or have some other game activity together, in person or online, outings where we go hiking, visit sanctuaries or wildlife rehab facilities, do conservation projects, etc. before Memorial Day and after Columbus Day, especially if the October weekends are as great as this year's have been. Members can participate in as many, or as few, events as they want to. So with that in mind, enjoy what we have here in Trail Notes, the newsletter of the Ken-Ton chapter.

Another benefit of holding regular meetings is that it allows us to talk to members about qualifying for State and National benefits such as distribution of wildlife grants, and members winning scholarships. Any member attending a qualified educational facility (college, trade school) can apply for scholarships.

The timing of this meeting and possible subsequent meetings is to take advantage of the fact that there are four new members of FCRV here in WNY from FFCC, and a new member in Rochester. Everyone here knows that if you join a group you want to get something out of it. So do the current members. So it's time for us to be less dormant and to get revitalized as a group. We all have a lot on our plates, so knowing stuff is coming down the pipeline is helpful in making plans to be able to participate. Not only that, camping is so popular right now that we need to make plans well in advance for the popular dates such as Labor Day, Columbus Day and Fourth of July. The schedule that we have started does not have to be the only thing going on. Some families are looking to camp before and after the traditional northeastern start of camping season,

WELCOME TO *TRAIL NOTES*

Trail Notes will be somewhat sporadic at first, because not a lot of interest is happening at this time. It will get better as time goes on, I promise.

It will be sent out in digital format only. I will send out to all members as well as anybody who is interested.

Just have them send me an email with their name and email address, and chapter affiliation, if any.

If you want to write an article that has something to do with camping, I will publish it.

Ted Murphy

Editor

WHAT IS FFCC AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR KEN-TON?

FFCC stands for Family and Friends Camping Club, and this is how they came to be part of FCRV. Back in 2020, when the national Campvention was in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, there was another group of campers nearby. Apparently they were waiting for the same space we were presently occupying because they were having their rally there the following week. Some of our members started talking to their members and we learned that they had been sponsored by Starcraft, manufacturers of RVs. However, the sponsorship was being withdrawn, and FFCC was unsure of their future. Their folks talked to our folks, and in July of 2022 FFCC became a nationally chartered chapter of FCRV.

All the interested members of FFCC joined FCRV and are fully vested in their membership and can enjoy all the benefits that FCRV membership has to offer. They are not required to join local chapters but can join if they choose. Here in Western New York there are 3 members of the FFCC chapter, the NY Bluebirds. They have all joined FCRV and are interested in joining us for campouts and events.

MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

My name is Ted Murphy, and I am the editor of Trail Notes. I use MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS as a space to put down my passing thoughts, caused by my memory meandering off somewhere. To help me keep track of stuff, I have two friends, Zeke and Zack who talk to each other.

Zeke: Did you hear the rumor about butter?

Zack: Yes, but I'm not going to spread it.

Zeke: Did you hear about the guy that fell onto the airport baggage carousel?

Zack: No. Did he get knocked out?

Zeke: Yes, but he came around slowly.

Zack: How do you like your eggs, scrambled or fried?

Zeke: Whatever you like, I'm eggnostic.

Zack: What do you call the turkey that escaped from the Pilgrims?

Zeke: Fast Food

We should make every effort to make them feel welcome with the hope that eventually they become dues paying members of the club. Just like our own members, they can camp alone if they choose, or they can join our activities. On the State level, they will be considered Independents until they elect to become affiliated with NYSA by paying \$2.00 per family.

When the Thundering Herd disbanded a couple of years ago, Ken-Ton and the Fiddlers Green chapter became the only remaining chapters in WNY. We occasionally camp with Fiddlers Green, and they will be joining us at our June campout next year at Sprague Brook. Unfortunately, because they are composed of all retired families, they like to camp during the week, while campgrounds are quieter. This makes it difficult to camp with them, but we are still welcome to attend their campouts if we want to.

Moving forward, in order to have a more predictable schedule so folks can make plans to attend, we should talk about regularly scheduled meetings, locations, and other events too, like perhaps an upcoming Christmas party to begin with. I'll start the conversation on the Camping Queens FB thread.

This is an optical illusion quilting pattern.

Sweet dreams...



2023 CAMPOUTS

The following campouts are planned. Ones with asterisks are with other groups. We are working to participate in the campouts of the NY Bluebirds chapter of the FFCC campers, and they will attend some of our campouts.

May 12-14*	Sleepy Hollow Campground (with FFCC Bluebirds)
May 19-21*	Finger Lakes District Campout
May 26-29:	Statewide rally, Herkimer County Fairgrounds (Memorial Day weekend)
June 23-25*	Sprague Brook (with Fiddler's Green chapter)
July 8-15	FCRV Campvention, Richmond, Indiana
July 21-23	Wellsville Balloon Rally
Aug. 13-19	Indian Echo Cave, Hershey park, near Hummelsville, PA (group weeklong vacation)
Sept. 1-4*	(Labor Day) Pope Haven (with FFCC Bluebirds)
Sept. 8-10	Finger Lakes Fall Campout
Sept. 15-17	Woodstream Halloween campout
Oct. 6-9	Columbus Day: Lake Erie Beach State Park

Some members have expressed interest in camping later into the fall; we can look into those

OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

President

Pat Wittmeyer jopacham@roadrunner.com

Treasurer

Sean McNess smmcnes@gmail.com

Trail Notes Editor

Ted Murphy tedmaryk@gmail.com

