



HOOSIER CHATTER

INDIANA STATE ASSOCIATION, INC. OF FAMILY CAMPERS AND RVers,
Founded as National Campers & Hikers Association



April 2024
Volume 57 Number 3

"Where strangers become friends, and friends become family!"

APRIL 8, 2024: TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE



IN THE PATH OF TOTALITY

Eye Safety During a Total Solar Eclipse

(Information taken directly from the website: <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/safety/>)

Much of Indiana will be in the rare "Path of Totality" during the historic April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse.

Except during the brief total phase of a total solar eclipse, when the Moon completely blocks the Sun's bright face, it is not safe to look directly at the Sun without specialized eye protection for solar viewing.

When watching the partial phases of the solar eclipse directly with your eyes, which happens before and after totality, you must look through safe solar viewing glasses ("eclipse glasses") or a safe handheld solar viewer at all times. **Eclipse glasses are NOT regular sunglasses;** regular sunglasses, no matter how dark, are not safe for viewing the Sun. Safe solar viewers are thousands of times darker and ought to comply with the ISO 12312-2 international standard. NASA does not approve any particular brand of solar viewers.

Do NOT use eclipse glasses or handheld viewers with cameras, binoculars, or telescopes. Those require different types of solar filters. When viewing the partial phases of the eclipse through cameras, binoculars, or telescopes equipped with proper solar filters, you do not need to wear eclipse glasses. (The solar filters do the same job as the eclipse glasses to protect your eyes.)

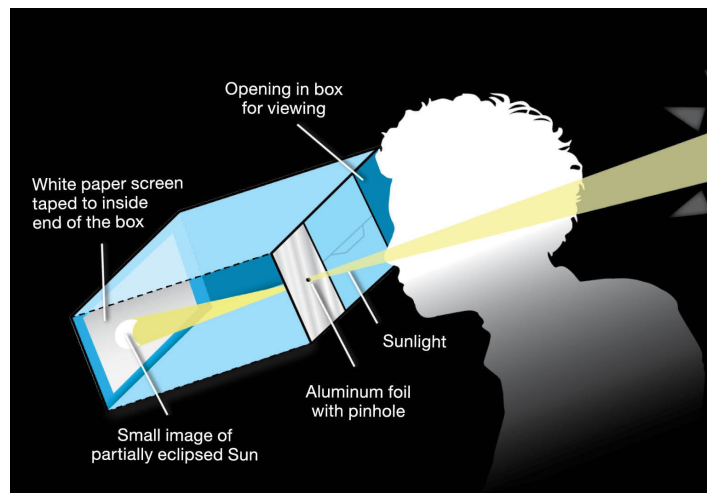
Seek expert advice from an astronomer before using a solar filter with a camera, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device. Note that solar filters must be attached to the front of any telescope, binoculars, camera lens, or other optics.

Important safety guidelines to follow during a total solar eclipse.

1. View the Sun through eclipse glasses or a handheld solar viewer during the partial eclipse phases before and after totality.
2. You can view the eclipse directly without proper eye protection only when the Moon completely obscures the Sun's bright face – during the brief

and spectacular period known as totality. (You'll know it's safe when you can no longer see any part of the Sun through eclipse glasses or a solar viewer.)

3. As soon as you see even a little bit of the bright Sun reappear after totality, immediately put your eclipse glasses back on or use a handheld solar viewer to look at the Sun.



An example of a homemade hand-held solar viewer.

Worried about your pets during the eclipse? See note on page 8!

Even a common kitchen colander can be used to "project" the eclipsing sun onto the ground! Simply hold it in the path of the sun and see many little eclipsing suns





From the State President

Ed Shaneyfelt

I hope you are excited to get everything packed up and ready to go camping, Ang and I are. As you are packing everything into the campers make sure that no extra critters decided to make your camper their winter home.

Get your planners out and look at your schedule to see if your calendar has all the campouts that are listed.

The Spring Campout at Johnson County Fairgrounds is in Franklin, Indiana, April 26-28, 2024, hosted by the Fireflies and Coffee Pots. Look elsewhere in the CHATTER for details. [Information on page 4.]

The Conservation Campout at Bill Monroe Campground in Beanblossom, Indiana, is May 3-5, 2024. Remember that if 10 units show up we get one night free. [Information on page 4.]

The Summer Campout at Jasper County Fairgrounds in Rensselaer will be August 9-11, 2024, hosted by the Sempers. Plans are still in the works, with a carry-in planned for Saturday evening.

The Fall Invitational will be at Amishville Campground in Geneva September 27-29, 2024, hosted by the Trustees. Info for this campout will next CHATTER. Let Deena Felver know if you need a site.

If you received your ballot and voted already in the National election, good job! If you haven't you still have time to vote before April 15. If you voted for me, I appreciate the vote of confidence. [Information on page 6]

I will be looking for volunteers to fill or help with some open positions. Feel free to reach out and inquire about the positions. I will not let this new position interfere with my duties as your State President.

I hope you had a wonderful St. Patrick's Day, finding your pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Also hope you had a Happy Easter and found all the eggs the Easter bunny left behind

Until next time,

Ed Shaneyfelt



From the State Director

Angie Shaneyfelt

Here we are, typing the April CHATTER, and the good news is that we have our Spring State Campout coming up this month. I have been told that the club (Stacey Davis) is putting a very interesting article in this edition of the Chatter [See page 4]. Please refer to that interesting article for information before you arrive on Friday, April 26, 2024, at Johnson County Fairgrounds in Franklin, Indiana.

At the National level:

The Retiree Rally is over. Boy, did it look like fun on the Facebook posts. We had 3 couples from Indiana in attendance. I'm going to try to make it next year! Yep, you do not have to be retired to attend the Retiree Rally; anyone can go!

Campvention will be here before we know it as it is earlier this year: June 23-29, 2024. The Herkimer County Fairgrounds in Frankfort, NY, are very nice and everything will be in really close walking distance. Make sure you get your reservation in so the planning committee knows how many units to expect.

Campvention Gift Basket: The committee organizing door prizes are asking that each state donate a "basket". If you have an item to donate, please bring it to the spring campout. Last year I did a throw together of a cooler, camping pillow, kitchen towels...always fun to win items that you can use. I may put out a collection cup at the Spring Campout, if you would like to donate a couple dollars so I can purchase items again. (Or I may do an auction to earn money, I could auction off Ed? N,o never mind, I'd have to pay you to take him!)

State level:

The only one besides Spring, discussed above, that I'm going to mention is Bean Blossom Conservation Campout. This campout is the weekend following the spring campout. Misty has advised me that we have 10 units attending, so you only have to pay for 1 of the 2 nights of camping. Come ready to work

See STATE DIRECTOR, (Continued on page 5)

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HOOSIER CHATTER online	www.fcrv.org/IN/chatter.php

**Johnson County
4H Fairgrounds**

Spring Fling

**April 26, 27, 28
2024**

HOSTED BY THE COFFEE POTS AND THE FIREFLIES
RESERVATIONS 317-738-3247

Friday: \$10 Activity fee will be collected by Pat Cohee

6pm - 9pm:

HOSPITALITY (Assorted cookies and snacks provided)

7pm:

BUNCO (Hosted by Pat Cohee)

Saturday:

10am:

CAMP Walk

10:30am:

CARD MAKING with Stacy Davis

***If you are interested, please bring \$5. We will be making 2 cards your choice of Happy Birthday, Thinking of You, Get Well, Thank You and/or Congratulations sentiments for that special someone.

12pm - 4pm:

FREE TIME

12:30pm: Trustees Only Meeting (At Shaneyfelt's camper. Feel free to bring your sack lunch)

4pm - 5pm:

GAME TIME (hosted by Denise Mckerlie)

6pm:

DINNER provider by Coffee Pots and Fireflies

(Various types of chili, chili topping, peanut butter sandwiches?
And, of course, dessert!)

Please bring your own table serving.

7pm:

EUCHRE (Rick Lucas)

Sunday

9:30

CHURCH (Harlan Nigh)

CLEAN UP TO CAMP OUT!

Conservation Campout

May 3-5, 2024

Need reservations to Misty by March 1st

1st night **FREE** provided we get **10 units** to camp **AND** help with the annual cleanup/workday on the 4th! (It will not be all day)

NO activity fee for the weekend!

Bring your gloves & a set of old clothes to work in!

This will be a casual weekend – pitch in on Saturday night!

Bill Monroe Campground

5163 Indiana Hwy 135, Morgantown IN 46160

812-988-6422





Conservation

Indiana State Association FCRV
Conservation/Wildlife Director
Misty Stuckwisch

Welcome Spring! I know everyone is eagerly awaiting camping season – I am jealous of those that went to Texas for the retire rally. It looks like you had good weather and a fun time enjoying the great state of Texas!

This past week I submitted a wildlife grant to nationals. I have to say, the process was simple and didn't take as much time as I expected. Most of the information I needed was on the rehab's website and then I communicated with the director via email. It is rewarding to think of how far a grant could go to help these great organizations. The grant form is available on the FCRV website under the members tab.

We had 10 units confirm for our conservation campout in May at Bill Monroe Campground. If you have not called, please reach out to them. If you called and left a message, you should expect a call back. If it has been several days, please reach out to them again or text me and I will email them your info to call.

Misty Stuckwisch

STATE DIRECTOR(Continued from page 2)

and have fun! We are doing a carry in meal Saturday evening. See Misty's article (previous Chatter) and page 4 of this CHATTER for more information.

Please refer to my March CHATTER article for the complete list of State, Regional and surrounding state schedules.

Get those campers out and cleaned up, and ready to go! I can't wait to see some new units and now a different truck for a member that just posted on Facebook. Ed and I will be in the same white truck and Grand Design camper (as they are both paid off)!!!!

See everyone soon. Can't wait to catch up with my camping family.

Angie Shaneyfelt
Indiana State Director FCRV



Note:
The McKerlies were also at the Retiree Rally, but had to leave before the State Pictures were taken.



Collections Coordinator +



Indiana State Association FCRV
Ronald McDonald House
And Riley Hospital
Collections Coordinator
C.A.M.P. Lady
Patti Thieme

Hi there,

I'm offering just a reminder that we *suspended our cap collection* at this time, because we have a lot of them.

But we are still collecting pop tabs for Riley's Ronald McDonald House and anything else you would like to donate towards the children at Riley Hospital.

Don't forget to bring your walking shoes to the campouts so we can do a long walk (or short walk, depending on how you feel.)

Patti Thieme



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hello Camp Family,

We had a great time at our first Retiree Rally in March. We met some good friends and had a good worship at the daily devotional.

I just wanted to share some pictures from our trip. Purple Hulls AirHeart and Blue Mudbone were the entertainment, all was good.

Thank you George & Karen Reynolds for your hard work and planning. Looking forward to seeing Y'all at our local camping and see your "Off season" photos. kerlies

Until we share a campfire, God Bless

Harlan Nigh □□□□□



It's Election Year!



Hello, my name is Ed Shaneyfelt. I am running for Vice President of Programs. I have been involved with NCHA/FCRV since my family joined in the fall of 1971.

Through my years I participated in the youth and teen program and made a lot of friends along the way. Still today I am still making friends that become like family.

In 1987 I married my lovely wife, Angie. We raised two wonderful children who participated in the programs also. Our daughter Paige was an Indiana state queen, and our son Fletcher was the first National Teen King. I have been involved or in charge of teen sports for the last 15 years.

At the State level, I have been Northern rep, Vice President, President, Past President, and current President for Indiana over the last 25 years. Also, I have been serving as the National Campvention Director for the past 9 years.

I am excited to embark on this new journey to make sure FCRV survives for future generations. To do this I believe the focus should be to update our existing programs, to ensure that they are best serving the needs of our existing members as well as benefiting new members as we continue to grow and expand. I am looking forward to working with the Program Directors to get this accomplished, whether it is the CAMP, Conservation, DASAT, Adult, Teen, Youth, or Veterans Programs. I will need to fill some open program director positions that are currently vacant. I understand that I would be responsible for those programs until I can find Directors. With the help of the directors and members, I believe we can create a prosperous future for our organization.

I'm here to represent the membership, please let me know your concerns if I'm elected so your voice will be heard. Your vote would be greatly appreciated.

Ed Shaneyfelt



It's time to vote!

There are three positions on the Board of Trustees up for election this year, International President, Vice President of Programs, and Recording/Corresponding Officer.

The International President, Gerry Pfirsch, is running unopposed. The sitting Vice President of Programs (Dora Lewis) is being challenged by Ed Shaneyfelt and the Recording/Corresponding Officer (Beth Standiford) is being challenged by Teresa Walorski.

There is only one vote per membership so make it count. **You will need your Membership Number to vote, if you do not know your membership number, please contact your State Director or Region Director. Your vote must be received by April 15, 2024.**

Your vote is important for the future of FCRV.

Please follow the link in this message to cast your vote.

<https://fcrv.org/national-elections/>



BEACH SAFETY

DASAT Thoughts

Marilyn Rausch



AVOIDING A SAND TRAP

On February 20, 2024, the unthinkable happened to a family from Fort Wayne, Indiana, who were vacationing in Florida. The parents were right there as their 2 children were happily digging in the sand. Suddenly their daughter was gone, buried in the collapsing sand, and their son was nearly buried. Tragically, 7 year-old Sloan Mattingly died. Why did that happen?

When planning for safety on the beach, our minds turn to the obvious: stay hydrated, wear sunscreen, don't swim alone, watch out for dangerous swimming conditions. Playing in the sand is not top on our list of warnings.

Sand is basically unstable. The fine grains mixed with water and air will hold together enough to build the towers of a sand castle and the walls of a trough. At some point, though, the weakness of the structure of the sand causes it to slump or shift, causing it to level out again. Anything that is in the way of its leveling out will be buried.

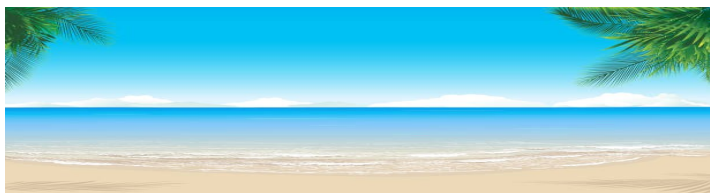
Five gallons of sand weighs about 70 pounds dry, up to 90+ pounds wet, as it would be on the beach. The weight of even a small layer of sand makes it difficult to move, so it is usually not possible to dig oneself out when buried. When compressed against the chest, the weight of sand prevents the chest movement required to take a breath. As a result, even being partially buried could result in death.

Regarding playing in the sand, a basic premise should be followed:

A SHALLOW HOLE IS A SAFE HOLE.

1. Never dig deeper than the knee level of the *smallest* person present.
2. NEVER put your head below the level of the surrounding sand. If the sand collapses, your head could become trapped.
3. Avoid digging or tunneling into the side of a sand hill or a berm. The weight of the sand above will cause that horizontal digging to collapse.

We have all seen the people who are "buried" in the sand with only the head exposed. The safe way to accomplish that is for the person to recline on the sand and have others shovel sand over their bodies in a thin layer, avoiding the head, giving the appearance but not the reality of being buried.



BEYOND THE SAND CONCERNS

Safe beach time does include the other recommendations more generally given:

1. Avoid dehydration. Drink plenty of non-alcoholic beverages.
2. Avoid sunburn. Use (and reapply frequently) sunscreen. Avoid the midday sun. Wear UV certified sunglasses and protective clothing. Remember that you can sunburn even on an overcast day!
3. Be weather aware. Lightning is a real danger around water. If you hear thunder or are aware of an approaching storm, get out of the water and leave the beach area.
4. **Never** swim alone.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS WHEN VACATIONING AT THE OCEAN

Further precautions are needed when swimming by the ocean. Public beaches employ a flag warning system to advise of potential safety concerns. Colors indicate the risk.

1. Double red: Water closed to the Public.
2. Single Red: High hazard (high surf, strong currents)
3. Yellow: Medium hazard (moderate surf and currents)
4. Green: Low hazard, calm conditions, use caution.
5. Purple: Dangerous marine life (usually jelly-fish).

Note: an absence of flags does not assure safe water.

Ocean swimming has some unique conditions requiring attention.

1. Ocean currents can carry you away from your starting point. Pick out a landmark where you enter the water and keep an eye on it. Preferably, swim in front of a lifeguard, and avoid water deeper than waist deep.
2. Rip currents flow *away* from the shore. They don't pull you underwater, but can pull you seaward faster than you can swim.
 - a. Remain calm.
 - b. Don't fight the current, but swim out of the current in a direction that follows the shoreline. When out of the rip current, swim at an angle toward the shore and away from the current.
 - c. If unable to swim out of the current, float or calmly tread water, draw attention to yourself by lifting your arm and yelling for help.

Recipes worth Sharing



HASH BROWN QUICHE CUPS

INGREDIENTS: CRUST

- 1 large egg
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/8 tsp pepper
- 2 c. frozen shredded hash browns, thawed
- 1/4 c. shredded Asiago cheese

INGREDIENTS: FILLING

- 3 large eggs
- 1 tbsp minced fresh chives
- 1/3 c. shredded Colby-Monterey Jack Cheese
- 1/3 c. fresh baby spinach, thinly sliced
- 2 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Grease 8 muffin cups.
2. Make crust: whisk together egg, salt and pepper. Stir in potatoes and Asiago cheese. Press 1/4 cup of the crust mixture into the bottom and up sides of each muffin cup. Bake until light golden brown (14-17 minutes).
3. Make filling: whisk eggs and chives until blended. Stir in cheese and spinach. Spoon into crusts and top with bacon. Return to oven and bake until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean (6-8 minutes).

Credit to TASTE OF HOME



What about Pets during the Eclipse?

Information from Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine indicates that “Dogs, cats, birds, etc. do not normally stare at the sun; they heed their natural reflexes not to look (unlike us curious humans.) Since they have an aversion to bright light emitted by the sun, the discomfort of squinting generally overrides any curiosity they may have, and they are likely no more inclined to stare at the sun than they normally would.”

If animals are weather sensitive, they may be more affected by the rapid changes in temperature during the event. For that reason it may be advantageous to keep pets indoors during the event.

Many zoos, including the Indianapolis Zoo, will be monitoring their animals to detect any behavioral changes that the eclipse might trigger.



FRENCH TOAST CUPS

INGREDIENTS

- 5 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 3 TBSP sugar + 2 tsp. cinnamon, mixed
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 12 slices of bread, cubed

DIRECTIONS

1. Grease well the cups of a muffin pan. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Mix first four ingredients.
3. Stir the bread cubes into the egg mixture.
4. Divide evenly into the muffin pan cups. Sprinkle with additional cinnamon/sugar.
5. Bake for 25-30 minutes.
6. Serve with powdered sugar and syrup.

Chapter Campouts

We invite any chapters who have planned their upcoming campouts and would like to invite others to join them to list them here in the CHATTER. Likewise, if you are looking to camp with friends (or people who will become friends), check out these listings!

We also welcome any reports and/or photos from your campouts. What a better way to advertise the heart of Indiana's Family Campers and RVers???

Contact the Editor at hoosierchatter@hotmail.com.

Fireflies and Coffee Pots 2024 Camping Schedule

Happy Glampers 2024 Camping Schedule

April 26-28, 2024	State Campout hosted by the Fireflies and Coffee Pots	Johnson County 4-H Fairgrounds
May 31-June 2		Turkey Run State Park
June 23-29, 2024	Campvention	Herkimer Co., New York
July 12-14		Starve Hollow
September 13-15		Parke County Campground
October 25-27		Spring Mill St. Park

April 13-20	Two Rivers Campground	Nashville, TN
April 26-28	Johnson County Fairgrounds	Spring Campout
May 3-5	Bill Monroe Campground	Conservation Campout
May 16-19	White River Campground	Cicero
July 12-14	Muncie RV Journey	Anderson, IN
July 24-28	Mercer County (OH) Fairgrounds	Great Lakes Regional
Aug 9-11	Jasper County Fairgrounds	Summer Campout
Aug 16-18	Mississinewa SRA	Peru, IN
Sept 10-15	Shipshewana North Campground	
Sept 25-26	Amishville Campground	Retiree Rally
Sept 27-29	Amishville Campground	Fall Invitational

If you have any questions, call Ron Cohee at 765-661-9673.



For further information contact John or Rose Stock (all12stock@aol.com)

A reminder and message from Ron Cohee about the **INDIANA SPRING CAMPOUT.**

Place: Johnson County 4-H Fairgrounds, Franklin, Indiana
(All full hookups)
Dates: Friday, April 26-28, 2024

RESERVATIONS NEEDED BY MARCH 1, 2024!

Campground Phone Number: 317-738-3247

NOTE: No one will be in the office when you call;
On the answering machine, select option 3

Give your name, return number, and tell them you are with FCRV.

Someone will get back with you in 48 hours to get the rest of the information needed.

SEE INFORMATION PAGE 4!





Family Campers & RVers
 Wildlife Refuge Program Inc.
 Application for Grant

Name of Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Manager/Director: _____ Position: _____

Please give a general outline of the project and include such photos as are available. Include papers to show that the Project is operated by a responsible government or private owned organization.

Recommended by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ FCRV Member (Yes or No): _____

Please mail/email to:
 Thomas Martinez
 1602 Dover St
 Broomfield, CO 80020
rci:wildlircdii@gmail.com

2024 GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CAMPOUT



Experience the *Grand*
Life with FCRV Family
and Friends



July 24-28, 2024
Mercer County Fairgrounds
1001 W. Market Street – Celina Ohio 45822

Welcome party, Race Across the Great Lakes, bingo, ole' fashion picnic, games, tours
and much, much more.

Pre-Registration \$30.00 per night + \$20 activity fee

Wed. ____ Thur ____ Fri ____ Sat ____

_____ of nights x \$30 + \$20 activity fee = Amt. enclosed \$ _____

Registration at Gate \$35.00 per night + \$20 activity fee

Names _____ E-Mail: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Adults ____ Youth ____ Teens ____ Handicap Parking? Yes ____ No ____

Type of unit _____ Length _____ Number of Slides _____

Second family in same unit \$20.00

Name _____ E-Mail: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Adults ____ Youth ____ Teens ____

Make check payable to: **Great Lakes Regional Account**

**Send Preregistration to: David and Linda Hennie
4101 Honeybrook Ave., Dayton OH 45415**

Questions?: Contact us at GLR4FCRV@aol.com
Emergency number: Mercer County Fairgrounds 419-586-3239

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Indiana State Events

2024 Indiana Spring Campout

April 26-28, 2024
Hosted by Fireflies and Coffeepots
Johnson County 4-H Fairgrounds
Franklin, Indiana
317-738-3247

Reservations by March 1, 2024

2024 Indiana Conservation Campout

May 3-5, 2024
Bill Monroe's Campground
Beanblossom, Indiana
5163 Indiana Hwy 135
Morgantown, IN, 46160
812-988-6422

Make reservations by March 1, 2024
through Misty Stuckwisch
MistyStu21@yahoo.com
812-528-2097

2024 Indiana Summer Campout

August 9-11, 2024
Hosted by the Semper Family
Jasper County Fairgrounds
Rensselaer, Indiana

2024 Indiana Retiree Rally

September 25-26, 2024
Amishville Campground
844 E 900 S
Geneva, Indiana
(260) 589-3536

2024 Indiana Fall Invitational

September 27-29, 2024
Hosted by Indiana Trustees
Amishville Campground
844 E 900 S
Geneva, Indiana
(260) 589-3536

Make reservations through
Deena Felver
cdfelver@metalink.net
419-203-6627

Regional Events

Great Lakes Regional Campout

July 24-28, 2024
Hosted by Ohio FCRV
Mercer County Fairgrounds
Celena, OH

International Events



64th Annual Campvention 2024 "Celebrating our Future"

June 23-29, 2024
Early Bird Days June 21, 22, 2024
Herkimer County Fairgrounds
135 Cemetery Road
Frankfort, NY 13340



Your chair awaits.

www.fcrv.org

HOOSIER CHATTER

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Founded as
*National Campers and Hikers
Assoc., Inc.*



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