



Banner

F C R V — T E X A S S T A T E A S S O C I A T I O N



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EVENTS AND MORE

LOCAL CAMPOUTS

June 13 – 15 Fiesta Campers at Branson Mo.

June 20 – 22 Humble Wildcatters at Coushatta RV Ranch in
Belleville Texas

June Eat Out with the Penthouse Campers

July 25 – 27 Humble Wildcatters at Magnolia Lakes in
Goodrich Texas

July Eat Out with the Penthouse Campers

August Fiesta Campers at Hill Country Resort in
Medina Texas

REGIONAL CAMPOUTS

June 19 – 22 FCRV South Central West Regional Campout,
ABC Campground, Branson Missouri

NATIONAL CAMPOUTS

July 4 – 10 International Campvention, Centre Hall PA

Don't forget to let your Wagonmaster know you will
be attending.

List your next campout or get together here!

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS—JUNE 2008

By George Cross

CONSTITUTION REVISIONS

Balloting results were announced at the TSA Spring Campventure. All changes to the current Constitution were accepted and approved. The Constitution is being revised to reflect the revisions that were accepted during balloting. The new Constitution will be published in the Banner when it is complete. A copy of the old Constitution has been preserved by the Secretary for TSA historical records.

I would like to thank the Executive Board, State Director, and the Regional Director for their input, assistance, and comments during the process of preparing the recommended changes to the Constitution. A special thanks to my wife, Joan, for the many hours spent checking my spelling and getting the ballots printed and in the mail. There are several “t’s” in the word “Constitution” and I can get them all in the wrong place. There was a lot of hard work that took place to make the revisions and balloting take place, but with the support of many TSA members, we were able to complete the task. THANKS EVERYONE!!!!

BLUEBONNET BANNER

I hope each of you is aware of the new website for the *Bluebonnet Banner*. It is www.bluebonnetbanner.com or www.bluebonnetbanner.org. It is up and working and will be a useful tool to communicate information of the TSA organization. I have asked the President of each Chapter to appoint a member as communication liaison to the TSA Banner Editor. It does not have to be the same person each month. I like the idea of having the monthly Wagonmaster of each campout prepare a short article for the *Banner*. That way the Wagonmaster can ask for input for the article during the Chapter meeting for ideas of things to publish. The list of things of interest to all the Chapters is very long, but here are some items:

Chapter information

1. New members
2. Campout activities
3. Chapter projects
4. DAT training
5. Conservation projects
6. Trip plans for Chapters
7. Yearly camping schedules

Personal Member information

8. Member illnesses
9. Additions to families (babies and grandbabies)
10. Special honors

And so on. Most of us have developed long term friendships with many fellow Campers during our lives in TSA and are interested in staying in contact with those people even though we only see each other a few times each year. The *Banner* is an excellent way to maintain the communication during the intervals that we do not see each other. I hope each Chapter will ACTIVELY support the *Bluebonnet Banner* to make it an important part of our camping lives.

FCRV MISSION STATEMENT

If you log onto the FCRV website, www.fcrv.org, you will find a huge amount of information about our organization, all the Chapters that have a website, and activities that are taking place. One of the things that I found interesting is the FCRV Mission Statement. Mission Statements, in general, are written to summarize the purpose of an organization. The FCRV statement is: “To share with all campers/RVers, the FCRV fun, friendship, fellowship, and

family feelings of camping together and to promote and enhance the experience and enjoyment of recreational family type camping/RVing”. I want all of us to be more aware of this Statement and make our activities fit into enhancing the Statement.

Just under the Mission Statement is a list of items that compose the Purpose of FCRV (www.fcrv.org) that expands on the Statement. The TSA participates in several of these Purpose activities, but we can do better. In the near future, I will be looking at other things we could be doing that will add to TSA accomplishments.

POLICIES

I plan to publish a few new Policies, with the approval of the Executive Board. The purpose of these Policies will be to standardize certain activities that take place in TSA. We currently have a Campventure Policy that needs to be revised and I will work on it later this summer. The new Policies thus far are:

- 1) Policy on Policies- Defines a Policy, who controls them, how they are approved and revised
- 2) Meeting Policy- Establishes meeting procedures, agenda approval, delegate requirements and recognition of speakers. The purpose is to shorten meetings.
- 3) Audit Policy- Defines financial record requirements and procedure to be followed by the Audit Committee
- 4) Budget Policy- Determines budget expenditures and expenses

There may be a few others to follow as the Executive Board studies the needs.

SPRING CAMPVENTURE

We had a GREAT time at this meeting. There were about 25 rigs present and the weather was nice, but warm. The food was plentiful and very tasty. I helped cook several packages of catfish steaks and tried to eat all the leftovers. The ladies out did themselves at the pot luck supper and once again we all ate too much. Especially since we had home made ice cream shortly before the supper. Everyone had a wonderful time and I want to THANK everyone that had a part in the preparation and execution of the Campventure. We had a very short gathering of the TSA membership to announce the Constitution Revision results.

FALL CAMPVENTURE

The Fiesta Campers have decided to withdraw their bid to host the Fall Campventure that was scheduled for this coming October. The Executive Board met at the Spring Campventure and decided to have the Fall Campventure during the Thanksgiving Holidays. The Teen Queen Pageant will be held at this meeting. I know that we discussed having the Fall Campventure at a time other than Thanksgiving, but that has not worked out for 2008. We may try again next year, but we need a four day Campventure to conduct the Teen Queen Pageant. Lawrence Phillips will have more information in the near future.

The *Bluebonnet Banner* is published by the Texas State Association of the FCRV, a non-profit organization. The *Bluebonnet Banner* is published 10 times per year and can be found at www.bluebonnetbanner.org and www.bluebonnetbanner.com. The *Bluebonnet Banner* is also on the FCRV.org website under “Newsletters”.

Opinions expressed in the *Bluebonnet Banner* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinion of FCRV or the Texas State Association.



TEXAS TALES

News From Around The State

PENTHOUSE POOP

We enjoyed 3 campouts in April. First, Penthouse combined its monthly camping (April 10-13) with the Directors Fun Campout (April 11-13) in Waco. On the 13th some of us moved on to Huntsville to the Texas Retiree Rally. We had lots 'o good food and visiting with friends. The May campout will be at the Lazy L RV Park in Barry Texas. It will be combined with the TSA Campventure.

In June, we will have our Eat Out at Ryan's Buffet in White Settlement on Cherry Lane. We hope to see you there.

Don't forget, we will not have a July campout, but our Eat Out will be hosted by Lou and Linda Zanfino

Weldon & Joanne Segars

FIESTA CAMPERS

The Fiesta Campers mothers were pampered on our camping weekend by the Husbands taking orders & cooking us breakfast! It was a GREAT weekend (with no cooking or cleaning up) at the Elks RV Park in Ottine, TX. It's very quiet as you can actually hear yourself think!

It was a very small group this time.



Honorees were June, Cynthia, Marty, & Linda.

ALL we had to do was place our orders

As for June, most everyone will be going to Branson, July is undetermined, Aug is 8-10 at Hill Country Resort in Medina and Sept. is 12-14 at Top of the Hill on I10.

Linda DeRosiers

HUMBLE WILDCATTERS

The Wildcatters took the month of April to go to Columbus Texas. We had a total of 7 rigs at the campout. Friday night we had dinner at a local

steakhouse and enjoyed an evening of games and fun. On Saturday, several people went into town to check out the sights and that afternoon we played several games of Bocce Ball. Saturday evening was a potluck supper and more games. Sunday morning, we had a Bible lesson brought by our Chaplain and then everyone headed home.

For May, we combined our campout with the TSA Campventure over Memorial Day Weekend. June will be at Coushatta RV Ranch in Belleville Texas.

Happy Camping!
Dawn Cross

SAN JACINTO CAMPERS

The San Jacinto Campers are a small club but a very generous one. We donate non perishable foods to a worthy cause every three months. In 2005 and 2006 we donated items to be shipped to our troops in Iraq and to our military hospital in Germany. In 2007 we donated a big supply of items to young girls that are living in a home for pregnant teens in Bellville.

Our club will not be camping in the months of June, July and August.

Lee Benton

News about your group can be here!
Send information to
bluebonnetnews@yahoo.com



T

SA Officers

TEXAS TALES

News From Around The State

MAY CAMPVENTURE

Memorial Day Weekend, 2008

The May Campventure was at the Lazy L RV Park in Barry Texas. 25 rigs representing a large portion on the TSA Chapters attended.

On Friday evening, we had a hot dog cookout with all the trimmings.

On Saturday morning, breakfast was hosted by the Texas Longhorns. After breakfast there was a quick announcement by the TSA Board – all changes that were voted on by the chapters passed and all chapters participated. Be on the lookout for more information to come your way. Saturday evening was a fish fry with all kinds of goodies. The auction on Saturday night raised 311.00 for TSA and cakes that were baked by Maddie

Lawler were auctioned for 57.00 to help defray the cost of going to National Campvention.

Sunday morning was breakfast by the Long Tall Texans, a short Bible lesson on forgiveness by Paula Green. Sunday afternoon we had ice cream and a pot luck dinner that night. Before the ice cream social, we had a 50/50 raffle. Kenn Green was the winner and graciously donated his winnings back to help Maddie with the trip to Nationals.

Throughout the weekend, there was lots of visiting, games and fun going on.

If you were unable to attend, make plans now to attend the fall campventure to be held Thanksgiving weekend at the Lazy L.

TURBANS

By Pam Phillips

The Texas State Association of the FCRV is a giving and caring association. Over the years donations have been

made of pull tabs from soft drink cans, blankets to nursing homes and other things.

This year, we would like to make caps/turbans for those who are undergoing cancer treatments and have lost their hair. We ask that each person who attends the Fall Campventure bring soft, knit materials to the campout. We have a pattern and will be sewing them up while we are there. If you know of someone who has undergone treatment or perhaps you have yourself, you know how welcome these turbans will be.

If you would like more information on what we are looking for or would like to suggest a group to donate these to, please contact me at pamphillips@netzero.com

TEEN QUEEN



Maddie Lawler -

TSA Teen Queen 2008

*Photo by
Warren Leith*

The 2008 TSA Teen Queen, Maddie Lawler, will represent the State of Texas in Pennsylvania at Nationals. We wish Maddie good luck!

Maddie plans to attend culinary school once she graduates. If you have not had the opportunity to taste one of her cakes – you are missing out on something mighty good!

Are you interested in running for Teen Queen? The Teen Queen pageant will be held in November 2008 at the Lazy L RV Park in Barry Texas. Keep an eye out for more information in the coming months!



TEXAS TALES News From Around The State

CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE

By Julie Leith

WILDLIFE SILENT AUCTION:

National 2008 is fast approaching. We are asking that our members put on their thinking caps to bring items for the Wildlife Silent Auction in Pennsylvania. We received many great items in Colorado last year for the auction. A big thank you to all who participated by bringing items as well as those who bid on them.

Remember that people love to bid on items that are crafted or sewed by members – the very thing that makes them special. Some of you are great gardeners and may have a special plant to share. Chapters can donate gift baskets that reflect their state.

WILDLIFE PHOTO CONTEST:

There will be an Amateur Wildlife Photo Contest at National. This is the third year for the photo contest. There are 3 age groups with the first place winner in each group receiving cash prizes. Below are the rules:

- 1) Only amateur photos
- 2) No domesticated animals (dogs, cats, birds, pets)
- 3) Pictures must be of wildlife in their natural habitat, not in a zoo (wildlife reserve will be acceptable)
- 4) Photos must be taken within the last year (July 2007 to June 2008).
- 5) Photos must be no smaller than a standard 4 x 6 photo and no larger than an 8 x 10 photo. Photos must be on regular photo paper.

- 6) Only 2 photos per individual can be submitted.
- 7) On the back of the picture, print your name, when, where the photo was taken. Put age on the print if in group ages 14 to 19 or 7 to 13.

Pictures will be displayed and judged in the Wildlife National Booth. Pictures will be returned to their owners.

For more information, contact Julie Leith at
bluebonnetnews@yahoo.com



NEW FCRV LEADERSHIP TO BE INSTALLED AT THE NATIONAL CAMPVENTION IN CENTRE HALL PENNSYLVANIA

The FCRV National elections are over and the new Trustees will be installed at the 2008 International Campvention in July.

The New officers are:

Jack Smye, President
Denny Scott, First Vice President
Dave Ludwig, Second Vice President
Jan Cushing, Comptroller
Wilson Forbes, Corresponding Secretary
Sandy Kendall, Recording Officer

National Campvention - 2009

Bobby & Charla Yost, TSA Regional Director

To all State Directors and Team Leaders,

We are still in need of volunteers – both as chairperson and general help. Some chairmanships have been filled – but your help is still needed. We are part of the 4 state regions (Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas and Texas) that are responsible for making the 2009 National Campvention the best it can be.

NATIONAL CAMPVENTION 2009

Our Region is hosting the 2009 National Campvention in Sedalia, Missouri on July 3-9, 2009. We need your help in this endeavor. Several of you have already signed on as Chairperson and we thank you. There are still roles that need to be filled. Below is a list of roles that YOU can help fill.

Adult activities....you will need to plan activities for the Retiree activities Chairman because you will should be geared to the twenty year olds and up. activities to cover all ages. It would be nice to have Co- Chair this job.



the adult center. You will work with share the building. Your activities You can schedule a variety of a younger person and an older one

Building Set Up....make sure the rooms or areas for all the activities are in order. You will be given a request form from each Chairman who needs you help with the time and needs (tables and chairs) of their activities. The Fair Grounds will have the chairs and tables in the areas already, but they may need to be set-up or rearranged.

DAT...Coordinate activities with the National DAT Director. Schedule Seminars of Interest. You may set up a display using local Organizations.

Handicap Director.....Make sure those who are handicapped and need assistance in parking and on-grounds transportation is available. Ensure on-grounds transportation makes stops in the handicap area. Provide info and assistance as needed. You may provide other things if you want to.

Historian.....Coordinate activities with the National Historian Director. Make arrangements for set up of the area to display the scrapbooks.

Insignia.... Responsible for setting up times to sell the patches and pins at Campvention. You will schedule volunteers to help you. A good time to sell products is before the evening program.

Religious Services....Schedule time for service. Post schedule for Jewish and Catholic services in town (we have a phone book to help you). The National Pastor will do the service.



SPC.....Schedule walks and have signup sheets for each walk. You can get a consignment of Vouchers from the National SPC Director.

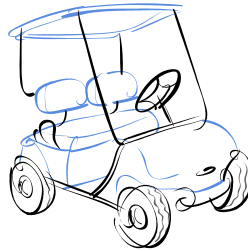
Teen Sports.... Schedule the games, find ball fields, get officials, have water cooler and work with the National Teen Director. The Chamber of Commerce will help find fields and officials. You will turn in an order for the award medals you need. Purchase any missing

equipment (yes you have a budget). Provide sign up sheets at central registration and volunteers at central registration.

Teen Activities.... We want to do this a little different this time. We would like for several people to plan – a hot dog the teens wants. It activities Monday, Tuesday (after the Pageant maybe a teen noise parade), Wednesday (this is the Queens ball and all teens are invited). has a Chairman but you might like to help chaperone. The Pageant has a Chairman also. If you would like to plan for an activity pick a day and let us know.



On Grounds Transportation.....We are planning for people movers. This will make getting used the trams. You would schedule hours. Schedule special transportation as events. Work with the Handicap Lead for



to use multi-seated golf carts volunteers easier than if we volunteers for the open requested by Chairmen of handicap transportation.

Volunteers.... Set up an area to sign up through out Campvention. This could be done in the commercial area near the office. volunteers as they arrive and

ALL OF THESE POSITIONS REQUIRE REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION THROUGH OUT THE PLANNING AND DURING CAMPVENTION.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, contact Bobby and Charla Yost at fcvtx@flash.net or 817-247-3475 or your State Director.

Helpful Hints - Fuel Tips

Urban legend tells us to buy gas in the morning when it's cooler and hasn't had time to expand, so we get more for our dollar. Whether you accept this as true, false or somewhere in between is up to you; what you should accept as absolute, however, according to the Automobile Association of America, is that you can have a positive effect on fuel efficiency if you follow these guidelines.

- Research cheaper gas prices on the Internet or telephone, not by driving long distances to save a few cents.
- Combine errands and appointments to avoid multiple trips.
- If you own more than one vehicle, choose the proper one for the specific job. You don't need the Suburban to pick up bread and milk.
- Look for gas-rebate programs offered with several credit cards.
- Maintain steady speeds, minimize braking and avoid excessive idling.

For more tips: <http://www.aaa.com>

Traveling with Pets

From TripswithPets.com

Do you take your pet with you when you travel?



Would you know what to do should you have an emergency with your pet? Below is some information from the TripswithPets.com website on how to make travel easier for you and your four legged friend.

Healthy start. The last thing you need is a sick pet when traveling. So it just makes sense to begin with a healthy start. Before you start your trip, be sure that your pet is "up" for their journey. This means a visit to the vet for a medical checkup and to ensure that your pet is up-to-date with all necessary vaccinations. Make sure you carry a copy of your most recent vaccination records with you.

Is your pet returnable? A pet ID tag is essential. This means a temporary ID tag, along with your pet's permanent ID tag. This is one of the most important aspects of traveling with your pet, but also one of the most overlooked. If your pet runs off while traveling, a temporary ID tag that lists a phone number where you can be reached to help ensure that your will pet be safely returned to you.

Ample food and water. How many times have pet owners pulled in the travel service area off the highway and grabbed a burger for their dog? Or filled their cup with water for their pet to drink? This is not a prepared pet traveler. Traveling is not the time to introduce a new diet of human food to your pet. That never has a good ending. Pack an ample supply of your pet's regular food as well as water for your pet. Bring along collapsible pet travel bowls instead of their bowls from home. They are less awkward and are very convenient for packing purposes.

Pack other essentials. Include food and water dishes, bedding, litter and litter box, leash, collar and tags, grooming supplies, a favorite toy, a first-aid kit, and any necessary medications. In addition, a

container of drinking water for your pet should always be with you.

Ice cubes. Occasionally traveling can upset your pet's stomach. Take along ice cubes, which are easier on your pet than large amounts of water. It is recommended that you keep feeding to a minimum during travel. When traveling by car, a light meal for your pet two to three hours before you leave is advised.

Picture of Pet. Carry a current photograph of your pet with you. If your pet is lost during a trip, a photograph will make it easier for others to help you find your pet.





Practice restraint. Be sure that your pet is safely restrained in your vehicle. Utilizing a pet safety harness or travel kennel are the best ways to keep your pet safe. They not only protect your pet from injury, but they help by keeping them from distracting you with their usual enthusiasm as you drive. A safety harness functions like a seatbelt. While most pets will not have a problem adjusting to it, you may want to let them wear the harness by itself a few times before using it in the vehicle. If your pet prefers a travel kennel, be sure it is well ventilated and stabilized. Many pet owners prefer vehicle barriers, particularly for larger pets. Vehicle barriers are best suited for SUVs. No matter what method you choose, back seat travel is always safer for your pet.

No heads out the window. Although many pets find that sticking their head out the window is the best part of the road trip, it's not safe. Your pet can easily be injured by flying debris. This should go without saying, but NEVER travel with a pet in the back of a pickup truck. Some states have laws restricting such transport and it is always dangerous.

Frequent pit stops. Always provide frequent bathroom and exercise breaks. When outside the car, make sure that your pet is always on a leash and wearing a collar and identification tag.

Don't leave them alone. Never leave your pet unattended in a parked vehicle. On warm days, the temperature in your vehicle can rise to 120 degrees in minutes, even with the windows slightly open. In addition, an animal left alone in a car is an open invitation to pet thieves.

June 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 "Leave the Office Early" Day	3	4	5	6 Donut Day 	7
8	9	10 "Ballpoint Pen" Day	11	12	13 Friday the 13 th – the only one this year	14 Flag Day 
15 	16	17	18	19	20 Fiesta Campers - At Branson	21
Fiesta Campers	22	23 "Public Service" Day	24	25 	26	27 Humble Wildcatters – Coushatta RV Ranch, Bellville TX – June 20-22
Humble Wildcatters					FCRV South Central West Regional Campout, ABC Campground, Branson Missouri June 19 - 22	
FCRV South Central, Branson MO	29	30				28 Marble Day 

July 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
National Ice Cream Month 		1	2	3	4 Fourth of July 	5
					International Campvention July 4-10, Centre Hall PA	
6	7 Chocolate Day 	8	9	10	11	12 Hot Dog Day 
International Campvention July 4-10, Centre Hall PA						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 "Toss away the Could Haves and Should Haves" Day
20	21	22	23	24 "Tell an Old Joke" Day	25	26
					Humble Wildcatters, July 25 to 27, Magnolia Lakes	
27 Parent's Day 	28	29	30	31		
Humble Wildcatters						