



Banner

TEXAS STATE ASSOCIATION OF THE FCRV
Founded as National Campers & Hikers Association



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PRESIDENTS PONDERINGS

FALL BUSINESS MEETING

There are several items that need to take place prior to the Fall Business Meeting:

In order to speed up the meeting process I would like for each TSA Chapter to select their delegate and forward their names to the TSA Secretary, Rita Blair at ritadave2369@aircanopy.net. If a Chapter does not select a delegate or the delegate does not attend the meeting, then the Chapter member attending the meeting with the most FCRV seniority can serve as their delegate. I want each Chapter to have representation at our meetings.

If any TSA member wishes to bring up new business, they need to submit the subject material to be brought into the meeting to me for Executive Board approval prior to November 1. Email the information to me at tsacamping@sbcglobal.net.

FALL CAMPVENTURE

Has everyone submitted their registration form to attend the Fall Campventure???? If not there is a form in the Blue Bonnet Banner at www.bluebonnetbanner.com. Please plan to attend.

2009 TSA MEMBERSHIP DUES

Each TSA Chapter needs to collect the dues and send it to Rita Blair by November 1. The form for recording the membership, this year, is formatted in Microsoft Excel. Rita would like for the Secretary of each Chapter to furnish all the information needed in the form for each member. It will be a great assistance to her if the form is completed in Excel also so she can compile the forms from each Chapter without having to reenter all the information. This will reduce the number of errors in the finished list. It is also important that each Secretary carefully check the information they are submitting to assure it is accurate.

TSA ADVISOR

I have selected Catherine Singleton as the TSA Advisor and she has been confirmed by the Executive Board. She will serve through the remainder of my term.

George Cross

TEXAS TALES

News From Around The State

Fiesta Campers

The Fiesta Campers had to cancel the September campout due to Hurricane Ike. The October campout is to be at Canyon Trails the 10th to the 13th. Everyone will share in wagonmaster duties.

Don't forget – your dues for next year are now due.

Taken from the Fiesta Camper website.

Humble Wildcatters

The Humble Wildcatters cancelled the September campout due to Hurricane Ike. The August Campout was in Nacogdoches Texas. We had a great time. Our members made it through the storm fairly well.

Our October campout will be at Magnolia Lakes Estate in Goodrich Texas. Make sure you let the wagonmaster know if you will be able to attend!

Happing Camping!
Dawn Cross

Long Tall Texans

The Long Tall Texans meet monthly, come rain or shine. We have camped in the rain, sleet, snow, ice and of course the Texas heat. We try to limit our campouts to within 100 miles of the metroplex. We have 19 family members, ranging in age from the 40s

to the 70s. We have many children in our chapter ranging in age from 1 year up. We have a very diverse group and often have guest families camping with us.

Last month we camped at Traders Village. This month we will be camping at Lake Lewisville, the next month we are going to Lake Benbrook. We draw names for wagonmaster once a year. The wagon master plans the campout and the Saturday evening meal. The wagon master is not expected to provide the Saturday meal, just plan it. The wagon master has plenty of time to plan, and make reservations for their campout. We go to a variety of places because each family has their own ideas.

Melonbusters

We will be camping at Back Acres RV Camp in Garner Texas the first week of the month. We camp from Thursday to Saturday. Come and join us!

Everett Paramour



Happy Halloween!

TEXAS TALES

News From Around The State

Penthouse Poop

WHISPERING PINES - TYLER, TEXAS OCTOBER 17-19

We want to encourage you once again to plan now to go to Whispering Pines, north of Tyler, for our October camp out. The Ownsbeys and Segars are hosting and with thoughts of Halloween Spooks and Tricks or Treats just around the corner, we have planned a "Mystery Dinner" for Saturday evening! Believe you will find it a scream, fun, and entertaining and delicious, too. We will be camping back in the woods in the hills which are beautiful this time of year!" There will be a lot going on to do in the area, so you don't want to miss this camp out!

We will be discussing next year's camping schedule and we need your input. Bring your friends that like to camp. We will NEED to have a count that plan to attend so Bob can reserve enough sites.

San Jacinto Campers

We have not received an update from the San Jacinto Campers. The majority of the members live on the Gulf Coast and were more than like affected by Hurricane Ike. This is from information received last month.

The September campout was cancelled since several members could not go. The October, November & December campouts will be at Coushatta RV Ranch in Bellville Texas.

Tejas Travelers

The September campout was at Shady Oaks. Our October campout will be at the Schulenburg RV Park from the 17th to the 19th.

Bill & Rita Pollio

Texas Longhorns

**YOUR
INFORMATION
COULD BE HERE!**

Retirees Chapter 89

The September Retiree campout was cancelled due to lack of participants. We will try to reschedule for a later date.

YOUTH

I am looking forward to seeing you at the November Campvention. I will have some fun activities planned. I hope you will consider participating in the Princess and Prince Pageant on Friday evening. We will be making posters for the National Camping is and Conservation contests. So be thinking of ideas.

Come have fun!!!
Youth Director, Judy Elenburg

SCHOLARSHIP

By James & Debbie Pridgen

TEENS

By Kim Varner

CONSERVATION

By Julie Leith

SPC

By Al Bechner

Information
about your
role in the
TSA could
go here!

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

Extending the Life of your RV Awnings

by Mark J. Polk

Awnings are a great feature to have on your RV. There are several different types of RV awnings and they serve different purposes. There are window and door awnings that provide shade and keep rain away from your RV windows or entry door. There are slide-out awnings that protect the slide-out roof from debris and water. And there are patio awnings. Patio awnings extend the our outdoor world. Similar to the front porch of your patio awning provides us with shade and cover from a when we want to sit and enjoy the great outdoors. The your RV will provide years of reliable trouble free you take the time to do a little preventive maintenance

Perhaps the most important component of an awning Fabric used on RV awnings is one of two types, acrylic Acrylic fabric is a woven cloth that lets air circulate fabric. This air circulation allows the fabric to dry quickly when it gets wet. Acrylic fabrics are water repellent, but not waterproof. If you have experience tent camping you know that you shouldn't touch the underside of the tent when it's wet. Touching the wet fabric allows water to seep through the fabric. The same applies to an acrylic awning fabric. Vinyl awning fabric is mildew resistant, but not necessarily mildew proof. Mildew can form on the dirt and dust that collects on the fabric. It will be worse in high temperatures, humidity and if the fabric is stored when it is wet.



living area of home, the light rain awnings on operation, if and cleaning.

is the fabric. or vinyl. through the

Some awnings have an aluminum or vinyl wrap-around weather guard that protects the awning fabric when it's in the travel position. When you open the awning for the first time each year, or if it has been stored for a while, you will need to inspect the awning fabric for any signs of mildew or stains. Remember vinyl awnings will mildew. To prevent dirt from imbedding into the woven fabric of an acrylic awning fabric you should simply hose the fabric off on a monthly basis. Avoid scrubbing acrylic awning fabric. Scrubbing can remove the water retardant finish. For stubborn stains blot the approved cleaner on the acrylic fabric with a sponge or soft cloth.

For more difficult stains, or mildew, on a vinyl awning fabric there are aftermarket commercial cleaners made just for awning fabrics. One method that seems to work well is to spray the inside and outside of the awning fabric with the appropriate cleaner, then roll it up and let it sit for several minutes. This distributes the cleaner over the entire surface of the awning fabric and allows the cleaner time to work. Open the awning and thoroughly rinse both sides of the fabric. It may be necessary to scrub stubborn stains with a brush on a vinyl awning fabric before rinsing. You can clean the awning hardware with the same cleaner you use to wash the RV.

Note: Never use oil based or abrasive cleaners on awning fabrics. Clean and thoroughly rinse both sides of the awning fabric. Carefully follow all awning and cleaner manufacturer directions.

I n s p e c t i n g t h e A w n i n g

- Inspect the awning fabric for any tears or excessive wear. Talk to your RV dealer about what materials to use to repair or patch the awning fabric.
- Do not store the awning when the fabric is wet. Allow enough time for it to dry completely, on both sides, before storing the awning.
- While the awning is out, inspect the awning hardware. The bottom awning brackets support most of the load from the awning. Check the lag screws in the awning brackets for secure mounting. Inspect the arm pivot holes for any enlarged holes or broken rivets in the handles.
- Check for a warped roller tube. If the roller tube is warped it will be noticeable when you roll the awning out.
- Inspect the awning end caps for secure mounting and broken rivets. Caution: Never attempt to remove the awning end caps. Spring tension can result in serious injury.
- Make sure the awning rail is securely mounted to the side of the RV.
- Have any damaged or broken parts repaired before using the awning.

In addition to cleaning and inspecting your awning there are a few things to keep in mind when using the awning.

- Always lower one end of the awning to allow for water runoff. The weight from water pooling on the awning fabric can cause extensive and costly damage.
- Any wind gusts over 20 miles per hour can also cause extensive damage to the awning and to the RV. Never leave the awning out unattended. If everyone is leaving the campsite, store the awning in the travel position. When you go to bed, store the awning. Even when you are at the campsite, you should use awning tie downs to prevent any sudden damage caused by high wind gusts or a sudden storm.
- You have the option to position the awning arms straight down and stake them to the ground, but you will get better support if they're attached to the bottom awning brackets on the side of the RV. Remember, it is much easier to prevent damage to your awning than it is to repair it.

Awning Tip: Check with your RV insurance provider to make sure your RV awning is covered in the event of any damage. Some insurance companies require separate insurance coverage on the RV awnings.

FCRV/TSA FALL CAMPVENTURE

NOVEMBER 27-30, 2008

REGISTRATION

Lazy L RV Park Barry TX

12401 W. Hwy 31 Barry, Texas 75102

Phone 903-673-2523

The Fall FCRV/TSA Campventure will be held during Thanksgiving week at the Lazy L in Barry Texas (near Corsicana). Lawrence Phillips is in the planning stages for this event. There is a registration form in the Banner and more information will be forthcoming. If you would like more information or would like to offer your assistance to Lawrence, contact him at pamphillips@netzero.com.

SNOWBIRDS!

Yes, it's getting to be that time of year. We will see a migration of the Snowbird to Texas and surrounding states.

Do you know anyone who is a winter Texan?
Have you invited them to a campout recently?

Help make our northern friends feel welcome – that Texas really is “The Friendship State”. Invite them to your next eat out, camp out or get together. Let them know we have a newsletter and will be happy to forward it to them. Make sure they know that even though they aren't here year round (and with the heat we've had this summer – who can blame them!) – we are glad they are here now and would like to get to know them better.

Texas Member Updates

In the Texas Member Update section, we will use this to recognize special occasions or to let you know what is going on with Texas members. Send updates to the Bluebonnet Banner at bluebonneteditor@yahoo.com

September, 2008

Nancy Bechner –Forwarded from Jennifer Bechner on the 20th: "Good Morning, I have great news. Nancy is out of the hospital. She was released yesterday. She is currently staying with PJ (her youngest son) while recuperating. She is in great spirits and is accepting her new hairdo. (They had to shave part of her head for the surgery) She told me that she is excited and can't wait for the next camp out! We really appreciate all of your thoughts and prayers. We are very blessed to have you in our lives.".....Great news, indeed! You can't keep Nancy down for long! You can contact Nancy at nancy@bechner.com.

San Jacinto Texans and those on the Gulf Coast – Please keep them all in your prayers and thoughts while they go through all that needs to be done since Hurricane Ike. If you hear from any one, please let Pam or Lawrence Phillips know.

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.



National Campvention - 2009

Bobby & Charla Yost, TSA Regional Director

To all State Directors and Team Leaders,

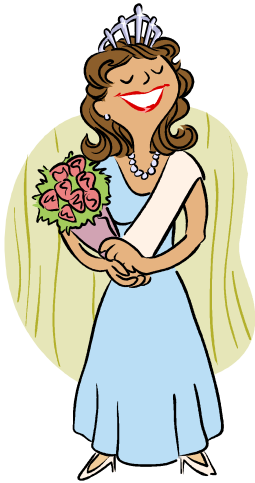
We have almost all the chairman positions filled. The ones left are **Teen Sports Chairman**, **Adult Activities** and **two more people to take a day/evening each**. We are now looking for people who will volunteer to help in all areas. All the Chairman need help at the Campvention so think about helping. Our **Volunteer Chairman, Pete Wachsmann**, will be glad to give your name to the Chairman you wish to help. Below is a list of activities needing help.

Adult Activities	Help with games, movie night, etc,
Adult Games	Help Referee, score, etc. (you can play too)
Band	Help with Parade Float for the band and daily assistance
Building needs	Help setup for activities
Bulletin Boards	Help make daily changes
Communications	Help man the Radios
Crafts	Help during the craft classes
DAT	Help Setup
Handicap	Help park and assist
Health & Safety	Help man the First aid Station
Information	Help man the information booth
Parade & Floats	Help in the building of the Queens float
Parking	Help in parking on Wed, Thurs, Fri, and Sat choose you time to work
Pet Parade	Help register, line up the pets, and assist the Chairman
Gate Registration	Help man the registration desk in the main building office Sign up to work in the office for a few hours (open from 9:00 – 4:00)
Security	Help man gates, patrol in golf cart, work in security office
Seminars	Assist with Seminars (there may be 2 or 3 at the same time)
Teen Activities	Help chaperone the teen events
Teen Pageant	We need "back stage moms" to help the girls dress
Teen Queen Tea	Help with food prep, serving, setup, and clean up
Teen Ball	Chaperones and setup and clean up
Transportation (on grounds)	Help driving 3 to 4 seat golf carts (6-8 passenger) around
Volunteers	Help manning the Volunteer booth & directing volunteers to work area
Youth	Help assisting the Chairman during activities.

There are many ways you can help. You will find volunteering a great way to meet people and feel a part of the Region 2 Team. Thank you for your help. Together we will have a very successful 2009 National Campvention.

Bobby and Charla Yost
Campvention 2009 Chairman

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



TEXAS STATE ASSOCIATION TEEN QUEEN PAGEANT

November 28, 7:00 p.m.

NAME _____
BIRTHDATE _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
E-MAIL _____

The object of the Texas State Association Teen Queen Pageant is to select a Teen Queen, King, Princess and Prince to represent the State. The Queen will compete at the National Campvention Pageant. If for some reason she cannot go, the First Runner-up will take her place. The Teen King can also go to National and will be introduced on stage at the Pageant. He also acts as an escort at the National Pageant and the Texas Teen Queen. The Princess and the Prince do not compete at the National Campvention but may be introduced on stage. They may also be asked to help at the National Pageant. The Pageant will be during the Fall Campventure in Barry Texas.

RULES TO ENTER THE PAGEANT

1. Teen Queen Contestants must be 13-19 years old on the day of the National Pageant. They are judged on talent, poise, personality, sportswear, interview and questions on stage. They will need to have a nice outfit for the interview, party dress and sportswear that represent their favorite sport and an outfit for their talent.
2. Teen King Contestants must be 13-19 years old on the day of the State Pageant. The contestants are judged on poise, personality, interview and questions on stage
3. Princess must be 7-12 years old on the day of the State Pageant. They are judges on talent, poise, personality, sportswear and interview. They need a nice outfit for the interview, party dress, sportswear that represents their favorite sport and an outfit for their talent.
4. Prince Contestants must be 7-12 years old on the day of the State Pageant. They are judged on poise, personality and interview.
5. Queen and King Contestants must be members of FCRV under their parents/guardian membership or their own.
6. Princess and Prince Contestants parents/ grandparents or guardian must be FCRV members.

We hope you will consider entering the State Pageant. It is our desire that all contestants come away with great memories, more confidence and a lot of new friends.

Mail to: Charla Yost, 191 Carleton Blvd Springtown, Texas 76082

Phone 817-247-3475 E-mail charlayost@aol.com

**FCRV/TSA FALL CAMPVENTURE
NOVEMBER 27-30, 2008
REGISTRATION FORM
Lazy L RV Park Barry TX
12401 W. Hwy 31 Barry, Texas 75102
Phone 903-673-2523**

Deadline to pre-register: November 10, 2008.
Pre-registration Fee: \$5.00 (after November 10 - \$10.00)
Adult Activity Fee: \$2.50 per activity (pay with pre-registration)

CAMPING FEE: \$17.00 per day payable on arrival

For more information, contact: Lawrence & Pam Phillips
10294 Sleepy Hollow Rd.
Terrell, TX 75161
Phone 214-668-4825
Email pamphillips@netzero.com

Name _____

Spouse _____

Others _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Chapter Name _____ Number _____

Special Needs _____

Attendees: Adults _____ Teens _____ Youth _____

Make checks payable to TSA

Pre-registration fee \$ _____

Activity fee \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____ Check number _____

Mail To: Rita Blair
1508 Brookview Dr.
Lancaster, Texas 75146-9707

PARKING WILL BE HOBO, IF YOU WANT TO CAMP TOGETHER PLAN TO ARRIVE TOGETHER

Paid check number _____ date _____

Upcoming Changes for FCRV

If you were at Campvention you heard from the Comptroller that the year ending June 30, 2007 ended in a substantial operating loss of several thousands of dollars. Year ending June 30, 2008 is forecast to be in the neighbourhood of a loss of forty thousand dollars. The Trustees' first pass at 2009 operating budget (prepared in May 2008) was projecting a loss of \$77,000. With the able help of our Assistant Comptroller, Bill Stirewalt we were able to make some very serious and deep cuts, that affect us all and FCRV in general, and reduce the forecast loss to approx. \$12,000. At an operating level we are in serious difficulty and corrective action is warranted. At a solvency level, we have a few hundred thousands dollars of reserves (money in the bank) and could survive at our current rate of loss for several years by just dipping into the well. This option is neither wise nor good stewardship and it is not what you elected your Trustees to do! Therefore the following changes will be implemented.

Dues

You also heard our Assistant Comptroller report that the average cost of membership (all our costs divided by average annual membership) is approximately \$33. We currently charge \$25. Some of the difference is made up in non dues income (sponsorships, Campvention, and Retiree Rally). The Trustees had an in depth discussion at our second meeting at Campvention (after the parade) and passed a motion to **increase yearly dues by \$5 effective January 1, 2009**. Two and three year discounted membership dues will also increase to **\$58 & \$84** respectively. The Lifetime membership cost will increase to **\$ 480** with the discount for years of service remaining the same. **Current holders of Lifetime memberships are unaffected.**

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1. You may renew [online](#) using our secure servers.
Something is required in each blank for form to go through.(ie. n/a)
2. You may mail your application to us. Download the [pdf file](#) and send it in.
3. You may phone our National Office at 1-800-245-9755

Camping Today

Another serious cost cutting effort that affects the membership is a reduction in the number of issues of Camping Today published yearly. We currently publish 10 times per year with July/Aug and Dec/Jan. being combined issues. Effective in 2009 we will only publish 6 issues Camping Today (probably, Jan/Feb, Mar/April, May/June, July/Aug, Sept/Oct, Nov/Dec). The logistics are still being worked out so the exact combination of issues may change. We plan to have a special article in the November issue of Camping Today explaining these changes.

The above article was taken from the FCRV website. For more information, please see www.fcrv.org.