



Banner

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



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PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

CONSTITUTION REVISIONS

The revisions to the TSA constitution are complete and were mailed to the Secretary or the President of each Chapter. A copy has also been E-mailed to each Secretary. I am asking each Chapter President to review the document with their membership so that everyone will understand the changes.

Basically, we made three major revisions to the Constitution.

- 1) Eliminated the Corresponding Secretary position.
- 2) Changed who approves the appointment of the Advisor.
- 3) Redefined the makeup of the Board of Directors.

All of these changes will be effective at the 2008 Fall Campventure.

POLICIES

The Executive Board has released four new Policies. A copy of each Policy has been E-mailed to all Chapter Secretaries. The Chapters need to review these Policies with their membership.

The Policies are:

1. Meeting Policy - controls how we will conduct our meetings.
2. Expenditure Policy - defines how expenses are reimbursed.
3. Audit Policy - explains how TSA accounts are audited.
4. Policy on Policies - defines a Policy, how it is written and approved.

These Policies are in effect now.

REGISTRATION FOR 2009

Where has the year gone?? It is now September and time to begin planning for the 2009 TSA registration. Rita Blair, our TSA Secretary, is preparing a form using Microsoft Excel. Each Chapter Secretary is to fill out this form for all members of their Chapter using Microsoft Excel, if possible, and E-mail it to Rita. This will assist her in compiling the total TSA roster and reduce errors in transcribing the information. If a Chapter Secretary is not Microsoft Excel proficient, then the form can be completed by hand writing the required information and mailing the list to Rita. She will furnish additional information when she E-mails the form to the Chapter Secretaries in early October. Registration needs to be completed and sent to her prior to November 1, 2008.

EDITORIAL

By Dawn Cross

I just received my September 2008 Camping Today and spent some time reading through the magazine and taking in the changes that will be taking place in 2009. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the Campvention in Center Hall Pennsylvania.

That also was the part that distressed me the most.

With the exception of Maddie being elected 2nd Runner-Up for Teen Queen and a few other nods toward Texas, there was nothing much to say about us (Texas) as a whole. Considering we are the largest State in the Union – not counting Alaska – we should be able to garner more recognition and have more participation than we did.

This brings me to my point – participation (or lack of it)....

This is our 4th issue of the Banner. In previous issues, I have asked that each Chapter or committee chairman send information about what is going on. With the exception of a few – not much has been received. What does DAT and SPC have going on? What is needed to apply for a scholarship? Without information on what is going on within the groups and the association, we cannot expect to grow the TSA or the local camping clubs. For the most part, the Banner is a reflection of the editors' thoughts and opinions.

One thing I have found interesting is the number of members we have within the TSA. Did you know that we have about 225 members within the TSA – not including spouses or children? With that many members, we should have more representation than we do.

What are you or your group doing to show others your enjoyment of camping? Recently I have done some online searches and found sites that list different camping clubs that have chapters all over the State. I have also reached out to several RV locations and TACO and have asked them about putting our information out. All seem happy to do so – all it took was me asking. I have found through work people who are interested in camping and have passed on information about the Chapter we are part of and TSA. I have invited them to come spend a day with us at any campout – we will see if it works! In the last newsletters, I have mentioned inviting our Northern neighbors to join you on your next eat-out, camp-out or just out! Where there is one person who is interested in camping, there are more.

I want to see us grow and prosper – let me know what you are doing on that end. Send your suggestions on what you are doing to grow your club. Send email addresses of those who might be interested in the activities of the Texas State Association of the FCRV. Keep this Association participating and growing – and at the National Convention in 2009 – “Let’s Show Them A Sign” – Texas Rocks!

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

Don't forget – the September campout is in Canton Texas. It is from Sep 18 to 21. We are going to be part of the Good Sam Rally. Only 5 people have confirmed – so call the Segars or Owensby's to let them know you will attend.

The September Eat Out will be on Sept 3 at the Cracker Barrel in Burleson. The Searcy's are the hosts. Our October Eat Out hosts are the Hahn's. Look for more information soon!

Our October campout will be at Whispering Pines in Tyler Texas. We will be there from October 17-19 – make your plans now. More information coming your way soon!

Stay Cool!

Weldon & Joanne Segars

Fiesta Campers

It is that time again to think of renewing your Fiesta Camper membership. Dues will be due by September 30, 2008 and will be collected in September. They need to be in the book of paid members by the first of October. Dues are still \$10.00 per year.

Sept 12-14 Fiesta Campout 2008
Your host Richard and Nina Anderson

Top of the Hill RV Resort in Boerne, TX
I-10 West Exit. 533 (12 Green Cedar Road)

Rally rates: for ten (10) or more rigs is \$25.00 per night, less than 10 rigs would be at the 10% off discounted rate of \$33.00 per night. Each rally member can stay two

(2) additional nights, before or after rally dates, at the rally group rate.

EVERYONE NEEDS TO MAKE THEIR OWN RESERVATION and tell the staff you are with the Fiesta Campers..

Call no later than Aug 28, 2008. Phone 830-537-3666. They need at least two (2) weeks notice to set up for our rally. The campground will call you within 24 hours to guarantee you a space with a credit card. Please let Richard and Nina know that you plan to attend for their information and to keep track of who is coming. Their home phone is 210-945-4627; cell phone 210-771-1468.

Top of the Hill Resort has a pool, hot tub, general store and recreation room with pool table, paddle tennis, foosball and air-hockey.

Party Animals at Medina



The Mullins (Ken, Chyrl, Xander, Robert, Beca, Abby Hull, & Jean Ray)

TEXAS TALES

News From Around The State

Long Tall Texas

Next month's wagon masters will be Gloria and Johnny Everich. They have made reservations for the chapter at Trader's Village in Grand Prairie. More details will follow. Please let the wagon master know if you plan to attend or not

San Jacinto Campers

The September campout was cancelled – but we plan to be a Coushatta in Sealy/Belleville Texas in October, November and December. Come join us for a fun time!

Lee Benton

Texas Longhorns

Your information could be here

Melonbusters

Your information could be here

Humble Wildcatters

SEPTEMBER CAMPOUT

The September campout will be at Heartland RV Park in Huntsville Texas from the 19th to the 21st. Feel free to join us – and bring a friend or two!

OCTOBER CAMPOUT

The October campout will be at Magnolia Lakes RV Park in Goodrich Texas

Happy Camping!

Dawn Cross

Retirees Chapter 89

The Texas Retirees Chapter 89 will hold a campout this fall at the Lake Ridge RV Park in Gun Barrel City. The date will be September 14 to 16.

CANCELLED

Camp. Remember the camp across the street and we had lots of fun walking over there and enjoying the good eats and ice cream when we last met at Lake Ridge RV.

For more information, contact Weldon Segars at wjsegars@sbcglobal.net or Catherine Singleton at kates891@embarqmail.com.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MORE

LOCAL CAMPOUTS

Sept 12-14	Fiesta Campers at Hill RV Resort in Boerne TX
Sept 19-21	Humble Wildcatters at Heartland in Huntsville Texas
Sept 19-21	Penthouse Campers in Canton (Call Weldon for more information)
September	Eat Out with the Penthouse Campers Long Tall Texans at Traders Village in Grand Prairie Texas
Oct 17-19	Penthouse Campers in Whispering Pines, Tyler
Oct 24-26	Humble Wildcatters in Magnolia Lakes RV Park in Goodrich Texas
October	San Jacinto Campers at Couthatte RV Ranch in Belleville Texas

REGIONAL CAMPOUTS

Retirees Chapter 89 Lake Ridge RV Park	CANCELLED	Sept 14-18 City Texas
FCRV/TSA Fall Campventure Lazy L RV Park		Nov 27-30 Barry Texas

and the Survey Says.....

Good Sam recently published the findings from a survey they conducted of their membership. Over 10,000 people responded. Here are some of those findings.

Forty-one (41) percent of those reporting said that during the past year they limited RV travel because of higher fuel prices.

Three out of four had RV's that are less than 10 years old

Fifth-wheel owners are more likely to have purchased new

Class A gas owners have curtailed travel more than any other RV'ing owner

Satisfaction with RV service appears to be uniformly low, regardless of the demographic sub-group. A range of 44 to 63 percent report having satisfactory RV service

For more information, check out www.goodsamclub.com/highways

National Campvention - 2009

Bobby & Charla Yost, TSA Regional Director

To all State Directors and Team Leaders,

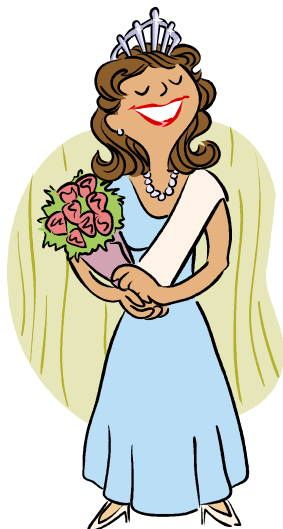
We have almost all the chairman positions filled. The ones left are Teen Sports Chairman, Adult Activities and two more people to take a day/evening each. We are now looking for people who will volunteer to help in all areas. All the Chairman need help at the Campvention so think about helping. Our Volunteer 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 NEWS

Make sure you read the excerpt from the FCRV in The Banner. There are changes that will be made beginning in 2009. For more information, check out www.fcrv.org

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 of members who are ill. Send updates to the Bluebonnet Banner at bluebonneteditor@yahoo.com

August

Nancy Bechner – Rushed to Las Colinas Hospital 08-29-2008

Paula Kelly – Just talked with Joe, Paula Kelly's husband, and she is doing great and will maybe go home this week. Had quad bypass and all is well. Paula is a new member of the Long Tall Texans. Plano Presbyterian Hospital, Room B-573, 6200 W Parker Rd., Plano, TX 75093-8185. Phone: 972-608-8000.

Charla & Bobby Yost,: "Just a note to let you all know that our great-grandbaby, Brooklyn, is coming home. She is doing so well that the doctors want to wait until she is 6-9 months old to do the surgery. We are truly thankful for all the notes, hugs, and prayers send our way. They are working. FCRV is always there for us. You are family. You can contact Charla & Bobby at 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.**

You may renew now at the current rates for one, two, three years or Lifetime membership even if your dues are not due until 2009 or later. The National Office will simply add the year(s) to your membership.

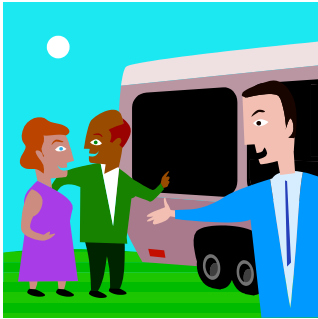
There are three easy ways to renew your FCRV dues:

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.



Minding Your Manners 10 Tips for Campground Etiquette

RVing is supposed to be fun. And some simple campground etiquette helps to keep it that way for everyone. If you are starting out or need a refresher, here are 10 tips on minding your camping manners to make your stay enjoyable.

1. **Follow the rules:** Individual parks usually hand you a copy of their rules when you register. Adhering to these rules is one of the basics of campground etiquette. Typical guidelines include reduced speed limits on campground roads for the safety of all involved. There are usually defined quiet hours when you should keep the noise down, turn off outdoor lights, generators - basically, the party is over.
2. **Eliminate pet peeves:** Literally. Pick up after your pets. Stop excessive or extended barking. Use a leash. Even if Spot is friendly, not everyone is an animal lover. Good pet-etiquette on your part helps ensure that the many RV'ers with pets are welcome at campgrounds.
3. **Parking the rig:** Sometimes it is very clear how to orient the rig on a site - you may even have a cement pad. But in many cases, the only guidepost will be the hookup for electric and sewer. General campground etiquette is to stay on your side of that hookup, and not have awnings or slide-outs encroaching on the site next door. Look at the campground map for a clue about preferred orientation. Or, look around you to see how other rigs are angled, if they are centered on sites or close to the utility hookup.
4. **Late arrivals/Early departure:** If you are arriving at a park after normal quiet hours, attempt some degree of stealth behavior. But keep the set-up to the minimum required for the night. Do what is essential and remember that tomorrow is another day. The same sort of courtesy should be used if you are making an early morning departure. Don't keep the engine idling for an hour before you leave. Tidy up your campsite the night before.
5. **Sewer connections:** Do them right. Make them secure. No torn hoses. In most places, your sewer connection faces the side where you neighbor has their "patio" area.
6. **Washing the RV:** Most campgrounds will not allow washing to avoid wasting water, high water bills, muddy sites, etc. Read the rules.
7. **No trespassing:** One of the unspoken rules of campground etiquette is that you stay off occupied sites. For the time a camper is on a site, it is their space and their privacy should be respected. If you are taking a stroll around the campground, the operative word is "around". Stay on roads and pathways - don't cut through your neighbors' turf.
8. **Around the campfire:** Before you light it, make sure it is permitted, and follow any rules the campground may have.
9. **Keeping up the neighborhood:** In general, be tidy. There is a point where too much stuff laying around outside the RV starts to look sloppy. Trash or anything loose that can blow around is a definite no-no.
10. **Do unto others:** When in doubt, follow the golden rule. If you aren't sure of the proper campground etiquette for something, think about how you would like to be treated. If you are concerned that something might bother your neighbor, your best bet is just to ask them. If you find yourself in a situation where your neighbors or park operators are doing something that you find intolerable, politely address the subject with them. If that doesn't work, consider moving to another site or another campground. You are in an RV after all.