

Texas State

Association

of the

FCRV



February 2009
Volume 2, Issue 2

To promote among members and other users of our public recreational areas a sense of responsibility in such matters as the proper disposal of waste materials, the prevention of forest fires, and the proper use of public recreational facilities. To cooperate with other organizations working for the conservation of our natural resources. To provide a medium for receiving and disseminating up-to-date information concerning Chapter activities, national news, conservation, and other ideas that will tend to bring our Chapters into a closer contact with one another.

The Texas State Association of Family Campers and RVer's/ National Campers and Hikers Association, Incorporated; a non-profit, volunteer, national organization of campers and hikers.

TSA Board Members



President's Ponderings

by George Cross

SPRING CAMPVENTURE

The Spring Campventure is planned to take place Memorial weekend, starting May 25. We have not had a Chapter volunteer to hoist the Campventure. The Executive Board will select a site as quickly as possible. We will select a site before the end of February.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

During the Fall Business meeting the Board of Directors passed a motion to have each member of each Chapter pay dues instead of members only paying dues into one Chapter. The purpose was to increase the TSA income to cover our expenses from lost membership. This motion created two problems that were not clearly thought out:

- 1) It did not increase our income enough to cover our current expenses.
- 2) The way the TSA constitution is currently written, this motion allows members with multiple Chapter memberships to vote in each Chapter on balloted items.

The Board will need to readdress these items at the Fall 2009 business meeting. Until our income is increased by about \$400 per year we will not be able to support activities such as the Teen Queen and Teen King Pageants, State Director expenses, Blue Bonnet Banner, and most other TSA activities that were cut or decreased in 2008.

FALL 2008 CAMPVENTURE INCOME

During the Fall meeting we had excellent participation in all the TSA activities. The activities that provide income for TSA made about \$431, which is about the normal amount we receive at the campouts. I would like to say THANK YOU to everyone that participated, furnished items to be auctioned or brought prizes for the goodie-walk and door prizes.

BLUE BONNET BANNER

In order to reduce the Banner costs, we are going to drop one of the two websites for access to the Banner. Starting in March we will only be able to access the Banner through the website www.bluebonnetbanner.com. We will be dropping www.bluebonnetbanner.org. The cost of each website is \$30.

TEXAS TALES

News From Around The State

Winter Texans

Hi FCRV Winter Texans,

What a wonderful outing we had today at the Hidalgo Pumpup House. Our guide Vi was excellent. If you did not get to attend with the group today, we recommend that you do the tour individually. It was a little cool on the tram ride, but we snuggled together and we think everyone enjoyed the wildlife and the tour of the city of Hidalgo. We had 50 FCRVers that attended the tour and 40 that went to eat the good food at the Republic of the Rio Grande Restaurant. We missed Mary Sue Friend, as she and Dick and Belva Sackett are ill. Please pray for their recovery. We are so glad that Mary Sue's husband, Gene, was able to come and enjoy the tour and meal together with us.

We got word today that Ed Lehnerd is in the hospital in Florida in critical condition. He has an infection and they have not been able to identify a mass in his chest. They do not know if the mass is cancer or possibly pneumonia. He has not been responsive all day. Ed and his wife, Mary, are FCRV National Conservation Directors. Their e-mail is elehnerd@juno.com if you would like to convey your support for them. Please pray for Ed and his family.

I will remind you again, but put the FCRV Winter Texan Meeting on Tuesday, February 10 at Harolds Country Kitchen on your calendar. We will meet to visit at 11:00 am, eat off the buffet at 11:30, with the meeting to follow. More information will be sent later on the fun outing for February.

We will be going on the Riverside Boat trip up the Rio Grande River and eat afterwards. Please arrive about 9:45 am. They have great big pork tenderloin sandwiches that are very good. The morning tour will only hold 50 people, so we have started taking reservations already. Ed and Kathy Hurley, Bob and Pat Nelson, Roy and Betty Pickard, Marland and Carolyn McCleary, Jan Scheetz and Ron and Nancy Herberholz are the names we already have on the list for sure. We did take a hand count today of about 30 who were interested in going, but please e-mail us so we can put your names on the list. . If we have too many more than 50 that want to go, we can arrange to have another tour in the afternoon after we eat. We all need to thank Marland and Carolyn McCleary for arranging this tour for us.

Looking forward to seeing all of you soon. Love and hugs to everyone.

Ron and Nancy

Retirees Chapter 89

Retiree Chapter 89

State Rally

April 6 to 9, 2009

The Retiree Chapter 89 Rally will be held immediately after the State Directors Rally at the Riverview Campground in Waco Texas. For more information, contact Catherine Singleton.

Humble Wildcatters

The Humble Wildcatters elected new officers for the 2009 Year.

President—Jerry & Melba Reasner

Vice President—Hays & Jeannine Coleman

Treasurer—Lonnie & Janet Cook

Secretary—George & Joan Cross

Our campout in February will be at Red Oak in Hempstead Texas. We look forward to seeing you there!

Send Your Club News to
www.bluebonnetnews@yahoo.com

TEXAS TALES

News From Around The State

San Jacinto Campers

We had a good gathering at our campout in December. On Friday night we had soups, sandwiches, cookies, chips & dips, and everything was so good. Naturally, we had some really good games of Jokers Wild. On Saturday for lunch we went to Brenham to Purcells and had the buffet. It was very good, as usual, but their prices have gone up considerably. Saturday evening we started with our meeting. Then instead of exchanging gifts, we donated the \$10 per person to be taken to the Bellville Food Bank. They are in some pretty dire straits since Hurricane Ike. The club presented the Clicks with a small stand mixer for their motorhome. This was a thank you gift for their term as president of the club. The Clicks extend thanks to all for the gift. A certificate was read by Bea Click in honor of the 40th anniversary of the San

Jacinto Texans. It was decided to put this on the wall of the club house. Then those who wanted to snack had plenty of eat. The usual games of Jokers Wild were played, along with some Mexican train. That was fun, we hadn't played that in a long time. Since it's been so long since we had a campout, I guess it's been a long time since we played any games. On Sunday morning we had our devotional time and sang Christmas carols. At the end, after birthdays and anniversaries, Camryn led everyone in the "Twelve Days of Christmas". She had the movements to show each day. It was quite funny to see 12 grown-ups standing in a circle, holding hands and doing the movements to "Twelve Days" and laughing their heads off in the process. It was the highlight of the weekend. After the devotion, instead of cake and coffee, everyone but James and Donna went into Bellville to The Hill and had hamburgers. We had to get started home because it is such a long drive for us and we wanted to get Camryn on home early, so she could settle down some because getting ready for bed and school the next day.

It was also very good to have Donna there. She stayed with James and really enjoyed the weekend. All our thoughts are with Donna and Cherryl during the holidays. Cherryl will be celebrating Christmas in Hawaii. A couple of people brought food, but since we donated the money to the Food Bank, the food that was brought was given to Shuemaker to take to LaCare in Burnet. Apparently all the food banks are having a lot of

trouble keeping their shelves stocked, they are helping so many. It does seem to get worse this time of year. James and Donna

had a great time on the Panama Canal cruise. They are ready to go again.

Our family had a tragedy and a joyful event a week apart in October. Our granddaughter Kristah and husband Dan had a beautiful little girl born Oct 17. However there were problems during the delivery and on Oct 20, Rylan Elizabeth Slate was taken to be an angel in Heaven. She was buried on Oct. 23 and on Oct. 27 our other granddaughter, Amy and her husband, Justin, had a little girl. She was born healthy and is doing well. Her name is Naomi Katherine

Donald is feeling better, Sue's leg is healing really well and the blood clot is doing really good. Bill Click was feeling really good and able to play games all weekend.

The officers for 2009 are:

President - Yvonne and George Shuemaker

V-President - Bill and Bea Click

Secretary - Alta James

Treasurer - Sue High

Prayer List: We have no one sick on our prayer list at the present and for this we are thankful. However they are some in our club that have lost family members and need our prayers. Please keep Donna Guerra, Cherryl Smith and the Benton's in your prayers.



Thanksgiving Feast 2008

STATE DIRECTORS FUN CAMPOUT

April 3 to 5, 2009

Riverview Campground in S. Waco, TX
988 Riverview Road, Waco, TX 76706
Emergency Phone 254-662-0475

LARGE PULL THRU's

FULL HOOKUPS

CLUBHOUSE

Parking is hobo style

Registration - \$ 5.00 per rig

Activity Fee - \$2.50/adult

Camping fee is \$18.50 per day for 30 amp service OR \$ 20.50 per day for 50 amp service

Make checks payable to Kenn Green and mail to 929 Holly St, Crowley, TX 76036-3311

As is always the practice, we will feed you on Friday night, you will feed us pot luck Sat night, and we will feed you continental on Sunday morning.

Come on over and help us try something a little different this year. It will be really good if we don't run out of time....
If this is your chapter campout, let me know, and I will set aside a time and place for your meeting.

Kenn and Paula Green 817-297-9222- - Home

817-658-3334 - - Cell

817-297-7766 - - Fax

Detach here and mail to Kenn Green at above address

NAMES_____#Adults_____#Teens_____#Youth_____

ADDRESS_____

PHONE NUMBER_____E-MAIL ADDRESS_____

SPECIAL NEEDS_____

A Note From The State Director

The world has not gotten off to a very good start for 2009. With a world wide recession upon us and continuing severe strife in the Middle East, it's difficult to focus on pleasurable activities such as camping. Yet, it is at times such as this that a brief respite from the heavy concerns of the world can be the very thing that helps us reenergize and to carry on coping, and perhaps solving or contributing to the solving of the challenges facing us all.

NCHA had its genesis when our countries (and the world) were still recovering from the disastrous tragedy of WW2. What we can offer society through our organization maybe of greater relevance now than in times of prosperity and success. We should all keep our eyes and ears open to be aware of any of our members that are having difficulties in this troubled time and also for any opportunity to offer helping hands in our communities.

Copied from update by:
Jack Smye, National President

There are many people in our organization who do not know what a recession is. They are just too young (what a problem). Everyone has been talking about it for some months now. We really have not been in it long enough to show people what hunger is, or cold, no water, you don't need your car because you can't buy gasoline for it anyway. The little things that we take for granted each day. The things like the four things I just named in the next to last sentence. We get ready to go out to eat, we just go. No though. We get ready to go to a movie, we just go. No though. You see a woman and little girl sleeping in the back of a car. No though. You see a man just off the sidewalk wrapped up in a piece plastic, and laying inside a cardboard box for warmth. No though. What if you lost your job last week or last month. How long could you stay off the street?. No bank account. You can't ask your friends. They are in the same shape. And besides, you don't want them to know anyway. How long could you stay off the street? There is a man I know that could break your heart if you heard his story. You could not believe what he was telling was the truth. Nobody could live through all that and still be alive. No way, but no though.

How do you feel when you crank up that belling diesel, take that last walk around the rig, go up the steps, shut the door with a little grin on your face. Feels pretty good doesn't it? You are going camping and forgetting all the problems you just left behind. You know, we all have problems, but we still have a means of getting it to settle down. As you are running up I-35, or across I-10, think about the people down the street with the RV sitting in the drive, and you didn't ask them to go. You know he lost his job, but you don't want to hear about it again, it is too painful. Do you have a friend that is not going camping with you anymore?? Do you know why?? Keep your eyes and ears open. He may be having a tough time and all he needs is a kind word, and an invitation to just get away for a couple of days. Do you know how long the recession is going to last?? Is that big fat nest egg about to crack? How long can you stay off the streets?? Give somebody a helping hand.

Kenn & Paula Green
Texas State Directors

TSA King & Queen

The TSA King & Queen were elected at the Fall Campventure. We had two running for the title of Queen—Hayley Varner and Meghan Lawler. We had Garrett Stoner running for King. The judges were Sue & Roger Begley.



Hayley was elected Teen Queen. Her mother is Kim Varner, also a former TSA Teen Queen. Hayley performed a selection from "The Jazz Singer". She is a member of the Long Tall Texans.

Meghan performed a flute solo—"Memories" from the musical "Cats". Her mother is Julie Leith and her sister, Maddie, is the Second Runner Up and First Place Talent at the National Campvention. Meghan is a Member at Large.

Garret Stoner is our Teen King. His parents are Glenda and Michael Stoner and is a member of the Long Tall Texas.

The TSA King and Queen will have the opportunity to go to Nationals in Sedalia MO in July. We wish them the best of luck!

Turban Makers – over 200 turbans made for distribution



YOU KNOW YOU ARE LIVING IN 2009 WHEN..

1. You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
6. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.
7. Every commercial on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen
8. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
10. You get up in the morning and go on line before getting your coffee
11. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :)
- 12 You're reading this and nodding and laughing.
13. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to forward this message.
14. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.
15. You actually scrolled back up to check that there wasn't a #9 on this list

Have a good laugh and pass it on!

Inks Lake Conservation Campout

Julie Leith, Conservation Director, TSA

Date: Feb 6-8

It's time to for the TSA Conservation Project. We will work on the other portion of the Campground that we were unable to work on last year. As in the past years, everyone who plans to attend and wished to have free camping on Friday and Saturday, **MUST** work on Saturday. We will trim trees, cut back undergrowth and make the area a great place for all to visit.

Here is the tentative schedule:

Thursday: Early Arrivals

Friday: Dinner on your own

Saturday:

8:00 Breakfast Potluck

Bring a treat to share and coffee pot. Do you have a big coffee pot?

9:00 Work Time

12:00 Lunch Potluck

1:00 - 4:00 Finish Work

5:00 Potluck Dinner

6:30 Ranger Program

Sunday 9:00 Potluck Breakfast (leftovers)

Don't forget to bring your work gloves and tools. There is something for everyone to do.

Special Note

Due to Government funding or lack there of, only Friday and Saturday night are free. If you come to the camp Wednesday or Thursday or stay Sunday you will have to pay for the entrance fee and camping fee for those nights.



Inks Lake, Burnet Texas 1

Texas Members Updates

Please keep the following Texas members in your thoughts and prayers:

Lawrence & Pam Phillips

Dave & Rita Blair

Julie Leith

DAT

by Lawrence & Pam Phillips



We are the DAT Directors for the state of Texas.

FCRV is in the process of getting new DAT programs for us to do. I know some of us that have done each one about 5 times each and have all the patches. We no longer get patches for the things we have done, we now receive about 50 tickets to spend on FCRV items at National. (If you cannot go to Nationals, you may want to sell or give the tickets to someone else to use). In District 2 (north and Dallas) we had full programs of DAT and had people come for the weekend. If someone in your area wants to do something like this we are willing to come help you set it up. It is not hard to do. It is really fun. You get to eat a meal, since that is one of the programs where you learn how to feed a lot of people in case of a storm or something like that. We also had CPR. We have not been good in having a program at each State meeting since we usually don't have time, but we could make time or if you have a program you would like to put on. We can get you a new book any time you need one for your club. If you need any information give us a call 214-668-4825 or e-mail us at pamphillips@netzero.com. We are there any time you need help. We hope to see you at the National Retiree and then at National. It will be one to see and be at. We love to see your shining face each time we come to a meeting and new ones. We love to make new friends. I have made a new friend since our State meeting. You can never have too many FCRV friends.

Be safe on the road till we meet again.

Pamela and Lawrence

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.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.



FCRV Retiree Rally

The 2009 FCRV Retiree Rally will be held in Casa Grande, Arizona. Situated in the desert between Phoenix and Tucson, Casa Grande, in February, will be a perfect spot for a Spring Rally.

Melvin and Nancy Coy, the 2009 Retiree Rally coordinators, are already hard at work organizing, supervising, deputizing, and terrorizing the various Event Chairpersons. Great things are on the move!

The Pinal County Fair Grounds is the site for our 2009 Retiree Rally. The grounds provides the capability of handling several hundred RV's as well as the buildings in which to hold the seminars and group functions usually held at our rallies. The 120 acre faculty can provide electric and water connections for as many as 900 RV's with 3 dump stations on the grounds. Four buildings containing 40,000 Sq. Ft. of open space makes the Fairgrounds a perfect place for our rally. Located just 7.5 miles off the I-10 Interstate, it is nestled between Casa Grande on the West, Coolidge to the North, and Eloy to the South. The location ("warm spot") of these three lovely towns, in the great southwestern desert of the United States, bodes well for ideal weather conditions for the February Retiree Rally. And "Hey--Guess What"? A Super Wal-Mart and a Tanger Factory Outlet mall are in the area.

Lap Quilts -- We hope we don't sound like a "broken record" but you guys may need to be reminded a few times about how good you have been in the past and how much we depend on you to be good tomorrow. I mean "Please" bring a lap robe or quilt to the rally.

FCRV Retiree Food Bank -- Please keep the FCRV Food Bank in mind as you travel toward the Fair Grounds. Try to remember to load up a few extra cans into your inventory before you arrive. And you know --- one extra \$Check\$ in the checkbook for the Food Bank? You all realize how much your generosity is appreciated by the local food bank organizers.

Golf Carts --- Golf Carts may be rented by making full deposit of \$150 for the week to:

Melvin Coy, 447 Hollybrook Dr, New Whiteland, IN, 46184-1311.

Renter needs to supply name, address, phone number. A valid drivers license is needed to drive a cart. Reservation deadline is December 10, 2008. This is for a two passenger cart for the entire week includes gas, tax, pick up and delivery.

Mardi Gras Parade -- The Parade will be on Tuesday everybody can participate in the parade. All you gotta do is be crazy and party!! Wear a goofy costume, wear beads, throw beads, just play the fool. How easy that will be for us to do, right? The parade will be walking, riding in decorated golf carts, decorated trucks, wagons, anything with wheels. All the parading we will do will be on grounds makes it even easier, and it won't be a long parade!

Talent Show -- Yes were going to have a talent show so everybody needs to bring their talent with them to Casa Grande, get up on that stage, and have fun. There will also be jam sessions planned for each evening after Entertainment. You guys bring along them Guitars, here!

Rally Patch Information -- The Rally patch are Blue and Old Gold, Arizona state colors. The Rally motto, "Welcome to the New West" will show up on the Patch. It's going to look super!

Yars will be hosting the Royalty Ball with Bob and Nancy Linder and DeWayne and June Johnson as Co-Chairpersons.

There will be hospitalities from the states participating in the Retiree King & Queen contest.
And we remind you that we have planned for two meals with one meat and one nonmeat entree each meal.

The Red Hatters will have a luncheon and, also, we are planning a ROMEO SACK.

Well, we hope that you will agree, we will have enough to keep us busy at the 38th Annual Retiree Rally! See y'all there!

Guy & Jean Dean

TSA Officers and Staff

Kenn & Paula Green, State Director, Chaplain
kgreen929@aol.com

Bobby & Charla Yost, Regional Director
fcrvtx@flash.net

George & Joan Cross, Texas Retiree Director
joancross@sbcglobal.net

George & Joan Cross, President, Scholarship
Treasurer
tsacamping@sbcglobal.net

Lawrence & Pam Phillips, Vice President, DAT
Director, Sound Equipment
pamphillips@netzero.com

David & Rita Blair, Secretary
ritadave2369@aol.com

Joy Searcy, Treasurer
joysearcy@att.net

Julie Leith, Conservation, Members at Large
jljamaica2@suddenlink.net

Al & Nancy Bechner, SPC Director
nancy@bechner.com

Kim Varner, Teen Director
kaybaby67@yahoo.com

Judy Ellenburg, Youth Director, Scholarship
Director
jellenburg@verizon.net

Mike & Dawn Cross, Bluebonnet Banner Editors
bluebonnetnews@yahoo.com

TSA Website
www.bluebonnetbanner.com

Dates To Remember 2009

Feb 11-15 RV Show Houston Texas

Feb 23-28 National Retiree Rally
Casa Grande AZ

Mar 26-29 RV Show Austin Texas

April 3-5 Texas Directors Fun
Campout
Riverview Campground
April 6-9 Texas Retiree Rally
Riverview Campground

May 22-25 Spring Campventure
To Be Announced

July 3-9 FCRV National
Campvention
Sedalia MO

Sep 20-24 Chapter 89 Retiree
Campout
Gun Barrell City

Nov 25-29 Fall Campventure
Red Oak, Hempstead TX