



March/April 2009
Volume 2 / Issue 2



T E X A S S T A T E A S S O C I A T I O N O F T H E F C R V
Founded as National Campers & Hikers Association



Upcoming Events

Apr 3-5 Texas Directors Fun
Campout, Riverview Campground,
Waco TX

Apr 6-9 Texas Retiree
Campout, Riverview Campground,
Waco TX

May 22-25 TSA Spring
Campventure, Antique Capital RV
Park, Gladewater TX

July 3-9 FCRV National
Campventure, Sedalia MO

Sep 20-24 Chapter 89 Retiree
Campout, Gun Barrell City

Nov 25-29 TSA Fall Campventure,
Red Oak RV Park, Hempstead TX

Local TSA Chapters have a campout or
get together at least once per month.

Chapter 9 – San Jacinto Texans
Chapter 26 – Penthouse Campers
Chapter 27 – Humble Wildcatters
Chapter 31 – Six Flag Roadrunners
Chapter 59 – Long Tall Texans
Chapter 65 – Texas Longhorns
Chapter 70 – Weatherford Melonbusters
Chapter 89 – Texas Retirees
Members at Large
Winter Texans

PRESIDENTS PONDERINGS

SCHOLARSHIP FUND ACTIVITIES

As you know, if you attended the Fall Campventure business meeting, I have had to restructure the Scholarship Fund. Several Scholarship Fund Directors that have guided the fund for many years have either resigned or become ineligible to be directors. The new Director of the Scholarship Fund is Judy Elenburg with Director Members being George Cross (Treasurer), Barbara Green (served as director for many years), Julie Leith (new member). We have one additional position to fill and Judy Elenburg will submit a name to the Directors for approval.

SPRING CAMPVENTURE

Planning for this meeting is well underway. The TSA Board of Directors is sponsoring this meeting. The meeting is in an area that has many activities. One of the main ones is antique shopping. The area is known as the Antique Capital of Texas. So plan to attend the meeting and shop 'till you drop. We are also looking for other fun places to visit such as museums etc. The Campventure is scheduled to start May 22 and leave the campground May 25. Each family that plans to attend will need to contact the Antique Capital RV Park and secure a site with your own credit card (will not be charged until you arrive). This is the RV Parks requirements for rally groups. Their phone number is 903-845-7378. We have reserved 25 sites with full hookups and you must tell them you are a part of the FCRV/TSA Rally when you call. TSA will have full use of Antique Capitals activity center and kitchen for our entire rally. If you want to e-mail them for information, the address is:

antiquecapitalrvpark@antiquecapitalrvpark.com

TEXAS TALES

News From Around The State

San Jacinto Texans

No information provided

Penthouse Campers

Due to the Retirees Rally, we did not have a March campout. Our Aril Campout will be with the Cowtown Sams at the R.V. Ranch in Burleson on I-35. This will take place April 16-19. More information to come.

Weldon & Joanne

Humble Wildcatters

The Wildcatters met at Northshore RV Park for March. While the weather was wet and cold, we had 6 rigs, 11 members and 8 visitors! We will campout at Country Place April 17-19. Hope to see you there!

Six Flag Roadrunners

No information provided

Long Tall Texans

Here is some information regarding the Long Tall Texans. If you are interested in finding out more about our group – make sure you email us at everich@sbcglobal.net or

bethamilton@gmail.com. We have been in existence for 45 years and are in North Texas. We camp monthly – year round. We support different causes as the need arises. Currently the Texas Teen King & Queen are from this chapter.

Texas Longhorns

No information provided

Weatherford Melonbusters

No information provided

Texas Retirees

The Texas Retirees will have their campout April 5-9 immediately following the Directors Fun Campout. We will meet in Waco Texas – you don't even have to move sites!

We have a project we plan to work on – look for more information in the newsletter. We look forward to seeing you there!

TEXAS TALES

News From Around The State

Winter Texans

The Winter Texans are wrapping up their stay in South Texas. They have been a very active group – going on day trips, having meetings and having a good time. Have a safe trip home and we hope to see you next year!

Ron & Nancy Heberholz

Conservation

Wow...what can I say...
Two campouts planned...
Two campouts canceled
Due to an extreme lack of participation!!

Maybe...we can have better luck next time!!!

Sorry to have missed camping with everyone and helping the park this year!!

Julie Leith
TSA/FCRV
Conservation and Wildlife

Texas Teens

No information provided

Members at Large

No information provided

Chapter Information Needed!

I am looking for information on each Chapter of the TSA. I have received information from the Long Tall Texans and would love to have information about your chapter. Please send the following information to bluebonnetnews@yahoo.com.

- 1) Chapter and how long you have been in existence
- 2) What area of Texas are you in?
- 3) Do you have a website? If so, what is it so we can link it on the Bluebonnet Banner Website?
- 4) If you don't have a website, is there a main contact for your group?
- 5) General information about your group - do you camp out only, get together for an eat out, support special causes?

For those who have leadership roles in the TSA/FCRV, I need the following:

- 1) What is your role in the TSA? FCRV?
- 2) How long have you been a member?
- 3) Do you have a website? If someone wants to contact you and you don't have a website is there a specific email address?

TSA Service Project

The TSA of the FCRV is among other things, a service organization. For the Spring Campventure, we will be gathering items to send to our service men and women overseas. We all know those who are serving or who have served and the difficulties they face while overseas. This is being done to let them know that we support them and are remembering them and hope this makes their time a little more bearable.

We will collect the following items to send to our service men and women. The Retiree Rally will also be collecting these items to send. A table will be set up to collect the items and to collect donations if you wish to help with the postage.

Fruit snacks (love the ones with Spiderman, Cars or other fun things on them)	Chewy fruit candy (Lifesavers, Sourpatch Kids, etc.)	Granola bars	Slim Jims
Rice Krispy treats	E-Z Mac	Gum	Cookies (if you wish to send homemade, ad a slice of bread in the container – it helps keep them fresh)
Snack mixes (Chex, Gardetto's, etc.)	Small packs of baby wipes	Small packs of Q-tips	Razor/Shaving Cream
Body Wash	Mouth wash	Eye drops	Chap stick
Batteries	Foot powder	Sun block	Soap
Shampoo	Greeting Cards (birthday, anniversary, thinking of you – for men, women & children)	Room deodorizers	Instant Toothbrush (the ones you slip over your fingers)
Hickory Farms Summer Sausage (or any other type)	Cheese packages	Pink Coconut Snowballs/Twinkees	Ding Dongs
Candy, Candy & more Candy	Individual packets of Power-Ade, Gator-Ade	Magazines & Books to Read	Tablets, Paper
Pens/Pencils	Phone Cards – Make sure these are for the military – regular ones will not work		

TSA Officers & 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 Director	tsacamping@sbcglobal.net
Lawrence & Pam Phillips, Vice President, DAT, Sound Equipment	pamphillips@netzero.com
David & Rita Blair, Secretary	ritadave2369@aol.com
Joy Searcy, Treasurer	joysearcy@att.net
Julie Leith, Conservation, Members at Large	iljamaica2@suddenlink.net
Al & Nancy Bechner, SPC Director	nancy@bechner.com
Kim Varner, Teen Director	kaybaby67@yahoo.com
Judy Elenburg, Youth Director, Scholarship Director	jelenburg@verizon.net
Mike & Dawn Cross, Bluebonnet Banner Editors	bluebonnetnews@yahoo.com

10 Ways to Save Money on the Road

1. Lighten the load. A heavier rig (and trailer!) works harder, thus uses more fuel, thus costing you money.
2. Reuse rather than replace. While paper plates, plastic utensils, and other "disposable" items *do* help keep onboard weights lower (as opposed to their plumper counterparts), this practice also requires spending more cash to replace these items again and again.
3. Skip the water view. Since campground fees often vary by location, our advice is to skip the often pricey scenic sites whenever possible. You can't see what your missing during the night, and we bet you'll be too busy during the day to enjoy the scene outside your RV's window. Make up for it by taking the spouse on a (free) romantic walk to see what the fuss is all about.
4. Ask for discounts when checking into an RV park. Beyond the obvious ones, lowered nightly stays have are sometimes gained for AARP members, military service, AAA, and police and fire personnel.
5. Eat in. Dining out almost always costs more money.
6. Keep those tires properly inflated. Doing so both increases fuel economy and prevents blow-outs, which should hopefully put an end to afternoons stranded on the side of the highway after a blow-out.
7. Don't be afraid to price shop for campgrounds. However, be sure to factor in the recreation offered at each. A boring campground will cost you more money since you'll need to pay for your fun someplace else.
8. If you're looking into buying a vehicle to tow behind the motorhome, get the lightest, most fuel-efficient one you can. Don't overspend here. This is not a "status" vehicle, rather something simply to get you and yours from point A to B.
9. Don't be shy about employing that senior discount. You've earned it; you deserve it, so use it already.
10. Favor RV parks that refuse to charge extra for running air conditioning, pets, or extra large rigs.

Winding Roads – by Joe Schmidt

Recently while checking the web for information that would be interesting to those who enjoy camping and RV'ing – I came across a cartoon that is all about RV'ing. I would like to introduce y'all to Winding Roads, written and illustrated by Joe Schmidt.

After checking out his 'toons, I wrote him and asked for permission to use his strips in our newsletter. I received not only permission to do so, but a little information on him also. Below is the first of 6 cartoon strips that will be used in the Bluebonnet Banner and some information about Joe.

Bluebonnet Banner – Joe, please give us some information about you

Joe - Me in an article instead of just my art? Well, thank YOU.

Bluebonnet Banner – Tell us about your family

Joe – Sue & I have been happily married for almost 36 years. We have 2 boys, both adults now. Bodie is our golden retriever whom we named after the deserted gold rush town "Bodie" in northern California. Our whole family loved walking the streets and looking into building windows... and so being a 'gold' town... it was a natural name for a golden.

Bluebonnet Banner – Where do you travel and live when not traveling?

Joe - Sue and I both came from families who trailered all around the U.S.... in the era when one could actually just drive up to State & National Park ranger stations and get a campsite. After we were married we started tent camping, then VW Camper Vans until the boys grew and grew... so then we bought a class C and now we travel in a Class A. We mostly camp in the Western United States. Our favorite trip included Zion & Brice Canyon on the way to camp in Yellowstone... then into the "cowboy states" north east of Southern California, San Diego, which is where we live.

Bluebonnet Banner – How long have you been drawing?

Joe - I've drawn as long as I could hold a pencil, so this is not just a job, it's literally who I am. Like I've told my wife, "If I weren't drawing cartoons, I'd be drawing cartoons... and if I weren't drawing cartoons, I'd be drawing... so I might as well be paid to do it." Like motor homing, you also get to meet the nicest people.



Check out more of his cartoons at www.joestoons.com

If you haven't registered for the State Directors Fun Campout - it's not too late! We have lots planned and look forward to seeing you there! If you need more information, please contact me at 817-297-9222(Home) or 817-658-3334 (Cell).

Kenn & Paula Green

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 _____

FCRV/TSA RETIREES OF TEXAS RALLY

APRIL 6-9, 2009

RIVERVIEW CAMPGROUND

988 RIVERVIEW ROAD WACO, TX. 76706

EMERGENCY PHONE 254-662-0475

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

Special Needs _____

TSA Chapter Name _____

INFORMATION:

To get to Riverview Campground:

Southbound take Loop 340 to FM 3400, cross under Loop 340 to frontage road

Northbound take Loop 340 to FM 3400 exit and stay on frontage rd.); go North 0.1 mile on frontage road to FM 434; then South 2 miles on FM 434 to Riverview Road; go East 0.9 miles on Riverview Road and Riverview Campground is on the right..

We hope you will attend our Texas Director's Fun Campout on April 3-5 and then stay on Sunday April 5, 2009 for our TEXAS RETIREE RALLY. Sunday plan to join us and we will go out to eat together.

REGISTRATION begins on Monday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. At that time, you will receive your program and pay your expenses. Please be prepared to bring finger foods to share at Noon on Monday the 6th. Rally is over after the meeting on Thursday morning. HOPE TO SEE YOU IN APRIL.

Note: You do not have to register to attend, but please register as it will help us know how many to expect and how to better plan our activities. Thanks!

RETIREES OF TEXAS FIELD DIRECTORS

GEORGE & JOAN CROSS

17171 NORTHCREST CIRCLE

NEW CANEY, TEXAS 77357

Ph. 281-851-6915

e-mail: joancross@sbcglobal.net

FCRV/TSA SPRING CAMPVENTURE
REGISTRATION

MAY 22-25, 2009

ANTIQUE CAPITAL RV PARK

500 SOUTH LOOP 485 GLADEWATER, TEXAS

PHONE 903-845-7378

Deadline to pre-register: May 1, 2009
Pre-registration Fee: \$5.00 (after May 1 - \$10.00 will be required)
Adult Activity Fee: \$2.50 per adult (pay with pre-registration)

CAMPING FEE: \$20.00 Per day payable to RV PARK*

***NOTE:** Antique Capital RV Park has a rule that each family must call the RV PARK and reserve a site with your own credit card. Please do so as soon as possible.

For more information contact: George & Joan Cross, Phone: 281-689-2660 or 281-851-6915

E-mail: tsacamping@sbcglobal.net

Name _____

Spouse _____

Others _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email: _____

Chapter Name _____ Number _____

Special Needs _____

Attendees: Adults _____ Teens _____ Youth _____

Make checks payable to TSA

Pre-registration fee \$ _____

Activity fee \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Mail To: Rita Blair
1508 Brookview Dr.

Date Paid: _____

Lancaster, Texas 75146-98-9707

Check Number _____

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

Camping's Fine in 2009 – Show Me a Sign

It is March 6th as I write this and it is 90 degrees. Can summer be far behind? Plans for the 49th National Campvention are almost complete. We still need volunteers to help in lots of areas, so if you want to help out please give us a call at 817-247-3475 or e-mail us at charlayost@aol.com. The Campvention will be a busy one for those coming. We have great entertainment every night, lots of seminars on many different topics, pet parades, people parades, commercial vendors, tours, teen pageant, outdoor movies for the kids and adults, 4th of July fireworks on grounds (free), a classic car show (free), SPC walks, and much, much more.

The new Retiree King and Queen David and Connie Long are from Kansas and our own Region 2. They will be at the National Campvention and would love to meet all of you. Connie is the 2009 National Campvention Crafts Chairman and she has wonderful crafts planned for you. Our Region will be represented at the Teen Queen Pageant by Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Texas. We all need to come and root for all for them!

Hope to see you In Sedalia, Missouri on July 3rd 2009. With all your help we will produce the very best National Campvention ever!

Bobby and Charla Yost
Campvention Chairman

Luella Sprague
Campvention Co-Chairman

49th Annual FAMILY CAMPERS & RVERS Campvention

July 3-9, 2009 - Sedalia, Missouri
(Grounds must be cleared by Noon on July 10th.)

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION JUNE 1, 2009

Early Bird Camping is July 1-2, 2009 - Wednesday and Thursday - \$15.00 per night

Gates open at Noon on July 1-2 - Wednesday and Thursday - Gates open all other days at 8:00 AM

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Spouse/Guest First Name _____

Address _____ City _____ St/Prov _____ Zip/Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Is this your first Campvention? Yes ___ No ___

Chapter Name _____ St/Prov _____ (if different than home address)

National Officers & those designated to park in Headquarters Area, please check here _____

of Adults ___ Teens ___ Youth 9-12 ___ Youth 5-8 ___ Youth 0-4 ___ Total # of people in unit ___

TEENS & YOUTH: Please list the names and ages of all teens and youth on a separate sheet and attach to this form

TWO OR MORE FAMILIES ATTENDING THE CAMPVENTION IN ONE UNIT

Each family in the same unit must complete a separate Registration Form. The additional family must purchase a camp pass. Please indicate the unit owner's name: _____

FAMILIES STAYING OFF GROUNDS

MUST PURCHASE A CAMP PASS AND COMPLETE A REGISTRATION FORM

HANDICAPPED INFORMATION A handicapped site is requested: YES ___

There will be no handicapped sites available at the gate. To guarantee a handicapped site you must pre-register. You will be parked in the inner campground nearer the buildings. All sites on the fairgrounds

have electric, water, and sewer hookups. Only request a handicapped site if you need to be close to the main building.

CAMPVENTION PARKING

Parking will be Hobo. You will be parked in the order you come in the gate. If you wish to park together you will need to come in together. ALL SITES HAVE ELECTRIC, SEWER, AND WATER. Campers who do not Pre-Register will be parked in the last row of the campground.

Type of unit: Tent ____ Tent Trailer ____ Motorhome ____ 5th Wheel ____ Trailer ____ Truck Camper ____
Van ____ Unit Length ____ Number of slides ____

Special for 2009 Campvention: Each family registering will receive \$10 in VENDOR BUCKS that can be used towards any purchase from a vendor in the commercial area. VENDOR BUCKS must be used at the 2009 Campvention. VENDOR BUCKS have "no surrender cash value" this means no change back in cash. VENDOR BUCKS will be given out at the registration booth.

We would like to volunteer for the following jobs: _____

Pre-registration Fees:

Electric, Water, & Sewer \$200.00

Camp pass \$165.00

Daily camp pass \$35.00 per family (daily camp pass - No Vendor Bucks)

At Gate Registration Fees:

Camping \$230.00

Camp pass \$195.00

All funds should be in US Currency

Make check or money order payable to:

FCRV Campvention 2009.

Mail to: Florence Fox - 5301 SW 31st Terrace - Topeka, KS 66614-4007

Have Questions call (817) 247-3475 or E-mail fcrvtx@flash.net or luellamofcrv@comcast.net

NOTE: If you register and are unable to attend for any reason, we will automatically mail you a refund of any pre-paid fees minus \$25.00.

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.

