

CAMPING TODAY[®]

THE VOICE OF FAMILY CAMPERS & RVERS

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September 2024

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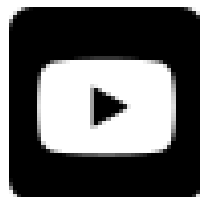
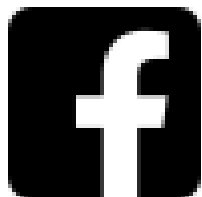


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Camping Today is a publication of the non-profit National Campers & Hikers Association, doing business as Family Campers & RVers (FCRV). Issue frequency is 12 (monthly) on line at www.fcrv.org. Publisher is Family Campers & RVers, 137 Crandon Blvd, Cheektowaga, NY 14225. National Office Phone #: 716-668-6242, fcrvoffice@gmail.com. Camping Today is supported through FCRV memberships. OWNER: National Campers & Hikers Association, doing business as Family Campers & RVers (non-profit), Bondholders, mortgage, and other security owners holding 1% or more of bonds, mortgages, and other securities: NONE. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed in the last 12 months.

Camping Today' Submission Forms

['Camping Today' is currently scheduled for release on the 15th of each month.]

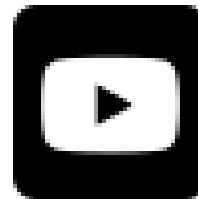
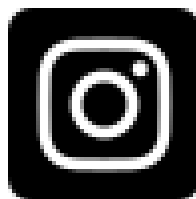
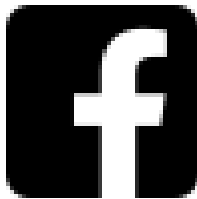
[All content must be submitted by the 1st.]

Contact FCRVOFFICE@gmail.com if you have any questions or problems submitting material.

[Click on the hyperlink below for the type of 'Camping Today' submission you'd liked to send.](#)

[Articles](#) - [Event Recap](#) - [Birthday Shoutout](#) - [Milestone](#) - [Farewell](#) - [Dear RV](#) - [Event Submit](#)

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YOUR CHAIR AWAITS



- International Camping Club
- Non-Profit Member Owned
- National & Local Events
- Wildlife & Conservation
- Scholarship Programs
- Youth, Teen, Adult and Retiree Programs

WWW.FCRV.ORG



From The President

There are several things going on at this time of the year. For many the camping season is on a downhill slope. For some of us our 2024 camping year will end in 2 campouts. Many of us will then move to indoor activities as we start seeing snow starting to fly. Those in the sunbelt are still camping full force. However, I think this signals some of the best camping possibilities for our northern campers. We start seeing cooler evenings, less bugs out to drain us like little vampires. All around we are headed for some great camping times closing out the season. As we move toward the end of the year, it is time for us to start planning for next year. I would like to remind everyone to prepare their next year camping schedule and submit it using the event submit portal. This will allow us to get an accurate number of planned outings. This also helps us in several ways. If we have a published list and we are traveling in an area where FCRV members are camping, it opens the opportunity to camp and visit with them, adding a new layer to the friendship that possibly started at a campvention. Having a list also helps when we are

seeking a quote for next year's insurance costs. It is more economical to insure a known number of outings. This will help us take the unknown out of the equation.

As you are reading this your Executive Board as well as the Advisory Council is reviewing the Revised Field Manual. This will be done in a two-stage manner. It will go to the voting executive board for their review and vote. Then it will go to the non-voting Advisory Council for their review and approval. This project has been a long time in the making, and I for one look forward to its completion. We must then remember that the Field Manual is a living document and will always need to be updated. As changes in how we do business or our programs are made, the manual will require updates at that time, never waiting for it to be outdated.

I hope those of you who received the YOUR CHAIR AWAITS banner are displaying it! If you have not received your banner yet, reach out and request it. Many State/Provincial & Regional Directors received their banner at Campvention. I am starting to see postings of pictures of the banner at campouts on Facebook. Also, make sure they are posted on the FCRV Public Facebook page, Instagram, Discord, and on YouTube if possible. I also ask that everyone start posting on the Public Facebook first then posting on the private and state pages. This will help with promoting FCRV.

Your Chair Awaits, See You at the Next Campout
Gerry Pfirsch
FCRV International President



Message from the National Office

Adding a Second Email Address With The National Office

Over the last few years the National Office has been slowly adapting older physical systems or outdated computer systems it used and moved them into newer tech based cloud based systems that have allowed us to work more streamlined. One of these changes is a whole new membership database system.

Along with this new membership database system is the ability to add in more variables to track much needed info about our members. Previously our old systems only allowed us to track one email address per membership account. We now have the ability to have two email addresses per account and are asking you to submit that information. Please submit this information through your state/prov or regional directors which will give our leadership experience using the new systems. This is also a good time to check with your state/prov or regional directors that your current email you have on file is up to date.

A list of state/prov or regional directors contact info can be found at: <https://fcrv.org/contacts/>

Discord

National and our leadership has moved on from using Zoom as our go to product for Video Communication and moved over to using Discord. Along with using Discord as our main source of video communication comes a slew of other benefits that Zoom did not allow.

Discord is a FREE social media platform that allows users to communicate in real time using text, voice, and video through public or private servers. You can find servers for all types of hobbies, from anything like knitting, bee keeping, video games, or sports, to things that FCRV exhibits like camping, RVing, wildlife and conservation

Your trustees, National Office and 'Camping Today' team have been using it for the last few months to test it out and get experience with using its features before we opened our server up to membership and the general public.

Discord, while giving us a platform for our leadership and members to communicate also comes with a MUCH needed benefit of moving FCRV into spaces used by younger generations. Discord has 3 options for using its services. Those options are a phone app, an app for pc/mac, or you can even access it right through a web browser. So it makes communication VERY easy and FAST with how accessible it is compared to Zoom.

Using Discord requires creating an account for it. Please make sure to take measures to log the name and password you create to reference logging back into it whenever needed. Also please keep in mind that the minimum age to create a Discord account is 13 years of age.

For more information, here is a great video explaining what discord is while showing off its features: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRMD8ley3ZE>

You can get the discord apps at: <https://discord.com/>

You can access the FCRV server here: <https://discord.gg/KjNMve2Rhh>



Discord

Ambassador Club Gains Two New Members!

Ambassador Club Gains Two New Members!

By Pat Wittmeyer

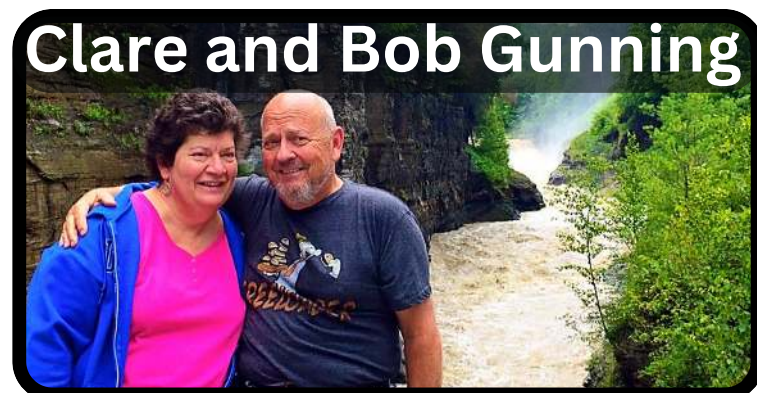
As you may recall from past articles, the Ambassador Club is an informal group within FCRV which recognizes members of our camping club for their recruitment of new members. Each year we have a celebratory luncheon at Campvention to recognize the efforts of these members.

It is with great pleasure that we salute two new members of the Ambassador Club. They are Clare and Bob Gunning, of Long Island, NY and Ron and Pat Cohee, of Gas City, IN. Both families have brought in the qualifying 5 new members, thus reaching the first level, Sapphire. Bringing in additional members over time will help them reach the Ruby, Emerald and Diamond levels of membership recruitment.

Congratulations to Bob and Clare, and to Ron and Pat!



Ron and Pat Cohee



Clare and Bob Gunning

Donations to the Wildlife Grant Fund

Donations to the Wildlife Grant Fund - *By Tom Martinez, Wildlife Director*

We received several donations for the Wildlife Grant Fund, and I would like to share these letters with the campers and thank Hudson Valley District, New York for the donations.

1) To: Family Campers and RVers, Hudson Valley District of NCHA/FCRV New York is making a donation of \$100.00 to Wildlife in Memory of Howard Hinkley, an active long-time member of the No Name Chapter until illness made him retire.

Tonya Rothmann Betty Ann Hinkley
HVD Treasurer Kingston, NY 12401

2) To: Family Campers and RVers, Hudson Valley District of NCHA/FCRV New York is making a donation of \$100.00 to Wildlife in memory of Phillip Steinberg, an active, longtime member until sickness made him retire from camping.

Tonya Rothmann Gloria Steinberg
HVD Treasurer Riverdale, NY 10471

3) To: Family Campers and RVers, Hudson Valley District of NCHA/FCRCV New York is making a donation of \$100.00 to Wildlife in memory of Ronald Wilday, an active, longtime member of the Helderberg Hilltoppers Chapter until illness made him retire from camping.

Tonya Rothmann Mildred Wilday
HVD Treasurer Greenville, NY 12083

FCRV Indiana Donates

FCRV Indiana Donates

by Angie Shaneyfelt (Indiana State Director)

On Wednesday, June 12, Patti Thieme and I made a trip to Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis to drop off donations collected from our Indiana members. The Indiana trustees have also provided Patti cash in the past years to purchase items for Riley. Patti does a wonderful job shopping for discounted items. These items filled up the back of my Suburban. Some of the items included: stuffed animals (new), notebooks, pencils, pencil boxes, coloring books, crayons, Crayola marker airbrush kits, lap blankets, lip balm/hand sanitizer kits (that will be given to parents at the Ronald McDonald house; they can't give those items to hospital patients). As you can see, it filled up the donation box that was brought out to us.

In addition to the gifts, there was also a cash donation from tabs that were collected at Campvention 2023 in Richmond last year. Riley prefers you sell the tabs and give the cash donation. Patti and I sold those tabs last year (in Van Wert, Ohio as they paid more than our local institution in Decatur, Indiana).

Patti really enjoys chairing this committee for Indiana, and we are glad that she does!



Anigie, Patti & director

**Patti Thieme
Angie Shaneyfelt**

FCRV Scholarship Award - Thank-Yous

FCRV Scholarship Award – Brianna Coniglio

Dear FCRV Members,

It is an honor to be chosen for the Hank Nathan Scholarship for the 2024-2025 school year.

I am currently a Senior, majoring in Forensic Science, with a concentration in Criminalistics and a minor in Biology. I am enjoying my studies, especially as I delve deeper into my criminalistics courses and research opportunities. I am currently working at my school's tutoring center in order to help other students with the knowledge that I have been able to acquire with the help of this scholarship.

After graduation, I plan to go on to graduate school, focusing more on forensics and genetics and specializing in my field more. Following further education and field specialization I plan to pursue a career in forensics and crime scene analysis, with the hopes of being employed with the FBI.

I am truly grateful for the financial support this organization has provided me. This scholarship allows me to focus on my studies and additional educational opportunities that have been provided to me. Thank you for your support of fellow FCRV members who are pursuing an education.

Sincerely,
Brianna Coniglio



FCRV Scholarship Award – Grace Carey

To FCRV National Scholarship Committee:

Thank you so much for once again giving me an opportunity to apply for and receive this scholarship! It helps out a lot with the costs of out-of-state tuition!

My name is Grace Carey. I am currently studying Pre-Medicine and Biology at Ball State University. I plan to take the MCAT next spring and attend medical school starting in the fall of 2026.

Thank you so much again!!
Grace Carey



FCRV Scholarship Award – Lindsey Vozar

Hello! I am Lindsey Vozar, and I received the \$1,500 scholarship! Thank you so much for this opportunity. I currently attend Miami University full time, majoring in kinesiology, and plan to add on a pre-med major this fall. After school I plan to attend dental school to become a dentist. Thank you again for this opportunity to help pay for my tuition!

Lindsey Vozar



Wildlife Grants - Sempervirens Fund

Wildlife Grants \$500 to Sempervirens Fund in Northern California

By John Beck

Many years ago, my parents were campground hosts at Big Basin Redwoods State Park in northern California. We had camped there many times during my childhood so if they were going to be campground hosts anywhere, this was a natural spot for them as it was one of their favorite places on earth.

For two years after they had both passed away, I kept their cremains at my home and didn't know what to do with them. Ultimately, my siblings and I decided on spreading their ashes at Big Basin. In my research, a park ranger pointed me to Sempervirens Fund and their memorial program. We went to Big Basin and found two trees that seemed to be dancing as they grew together. My parents met at an Arthur Murray dance studio where my mom was teaching, so those were the perfect trees for them. Sempervirens Fund made all the arrangements and prepared a memorial package for us including a map and a marker for the site. Many family members arrived and together we spread the ashes and placed the marker.

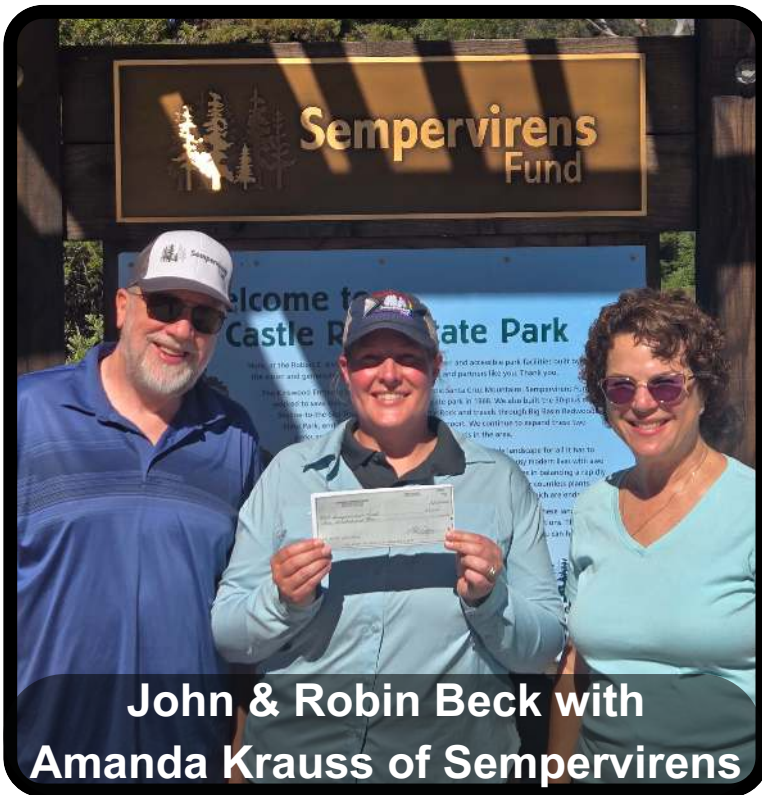


Then in 2020 there was a lightning-sparked fire that almost totally destroyed Big Basin State Park. The park headquarters burned to the ground, many of the trees suffered damage. The park was closed for 2 years and in the summer of 2023 began to reopen on an appointment only basis for day visits in very limited areas. There is no camping yet and no access to my parents' memorial trees site, so I don't know if the trees survived.

Since we were successful with our 2023 FCRV Wildlife Grant application, we applied again in 2024. We were excited when our name was called out during the closing ceremonies at 2024 Campvention in NY as the award winners had not been announced previously. I received the check at Campvention 2024. Later in July after returning home, we visited with Amanda Krauss of Sempervirens Fund and delivered the check.



Wildlife Grants - Sempervirens Fund



**John & Robin Beck with
Amanda Krauss of Sempervirens**



About Sempervirens Fund:

Sempervirens Fund's mission is to protect and permanently preserve redwood (Sequoia Sempervirens) forests, wildlife habitat, watersheds, and other important natural and scenic features of California's Santa Cruz Mountains, and to encourage public appreciation and enjoyment of this environment.

Sempervirens Fund has protected more than 35,000 acres of irreplaceable redwood forests since our founding in 1900 and has directly enabled the creation of three redwood State Parks in the Santa Cruz Mountain region: Big Basin Redwoods, Castle Rock and Butano, as well as the 32-mile Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail, which allows people to experience the redwoods from the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains down to the magnificent Pacific coastline.

The FCRV Wildlife grant will support diverse wildlife monitoring efforts. Covering 11,000+ acres, Sempervirens' monitoring informs stewardship activities to help Santa Cruz Mountain wildlife not just survive but thrive. Their work affects a wide variety of wildlife from large mammals such as mountain lions to threatened and endangered species such as red-legged frogs, coho salmon, and the marbled murrelet. Funds will support efforts to protect, preserve, and restore habitat wildlife to flourish as much as possible in the face of climate and other threats.

For more info visit:

<https://sempervirens.org/>

Calling for News!

Calling for News!

By the "Camping Today" Team

The "Camping Today" team is looking for articles from members sharing their experiences and photos with the rest of the membership.

Leadership, you can help. Please reach out to the members of your region, state or province and ask them to provide us with articles sharing their adventures. Simply copy and paste the following into an email going out to your state/region/province etc. and have them submit an article through the "Camping Today" portal.

Membership, you can help, too. If you see a member doing something interesting or amazing, write about it. Another option is to reach out to the member asking them to share their story.

FCRV members have so many interesting stories to tell. There's something about sitting around a campfire with friends that just brings out the storyteller, who fascinates their audiences with tales of camping or life adventures.

Have you recently taken a trip? You know, that trip with the fun stops, restaurants, and sightseeing anywhere in the world would make an interesting article for others to read especially when pictures are included.

Tell us about what's happening in your life. Are you celebrating a major event in your life? An anniversary, birthday, graduation or other life event? Did you take on a challenge, decide to run a marathon, or try your hand at something you've never done, but always wanted to try? Tell us about it. Include pictures.

Students, are you writing for your English class? We would enjoy seeing your work.

Does your line of work give you unusual experiences? Let's hear about what is happening in your area of expertise. Don't forget those pictures!

Do you have a hobby? Woodworking, ceramics, needle arts and fabric work all make for interesting projects that the rest of us can only look at, but we definitely want to look at them! In short, we would like to hear about it. Be sure to include pictures.

Favorite recipes from fellow FCRV members would be fun for others to try. Submit them. They can be appropriate for camping trips or for use at home. Be sure to include a picture of the finished product.

If it's facebookable, we want it!

Tips:

- Pictures by phone should be taken at a 1:1 ratio. Our Publication, The FCRV Website and ALL social media platforms use this ratio as their best/default/preferred ratio for uploading media.
- Do not edit photos(cropping or resizing) before submitting. Let the "Camping Today" team handle that. Doing so takes your photos out of the 1:1 ratio we are requesting.
- NO CLIPART! The aspect of publishing a professional looking newsletter heavily frowns upon the use of clip art. As well as puts FCRV into copyright infringement issues. Overwhelming amounts of clipart gets sent to us that we can't use. Save yourself and our team, the time in dealing with it, by just not sending it to us, please.
- Thumbnail pictures are not usable, they are blurry when made big enough for social media or "Camping Today".

The deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month of issue. Eg: For an issue published on November 15th, the deadline for articles would be November 1st

[Click here for Submission Portal](#)

Holiday Greetings

Holiday Greetings

By the 'Camping Today' Team

We know it's early, but we wanted to share exciting news!

Would you like to send a holiday message to all your friends in FCRV? We have designed over 60 graphic greetings for you to choose from to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. These will be published in the December issue of Camping Today, our national newsletter. For a fee of only \$5.99, that's right – only \$5.99 - While the designs are already created, members can personalize their greeting. Visit <https://fcrv.org/holiday-greetings> to see the various options for your holiday greeting. Payment can only be made online via the Paypal portal with a credit card. You do NOT have to have a Paypal account in order to purchase your greeting. It's a great way to share your holiday spirit with the members of FCRV who have "become family". The last opportunity to select a greeting and pay for it will be December 10, 2024 for inclusion in the December 2024 issue. Proceeds will help with publishing & producing "Camping Today."



Welcome New Members

Family Campers & RVers would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Madsen, Ronald	Madsen, Sandra	CO	Referred by: Kelvin & Lilah Stoel
Dewalt, Jason		PA	Referred by: Kim Trefny, Lyken Valley Roamers
O'Loughlin, John	O'Loughlin, Eileen	NC	Referred by: RV Show
Reed, Ryan	Miller, Alexis	NC	Referred by: Chapter Raleigh Road Runners
Schwabenbauer, Zachary		PA	Referred by: Tyler Brandt
Wood, William	Finney, Brandy	PA	Referred by : Karri Bickert/ lykens valley Roamers
Campbell, Lonnie	Campbell, Pam	UT	Referred by: Gordon Evans
Frederick, Honey	Frederick, Jake	CO	Referred by: Jim & Becky Godfrey
Clark, Chuck	Tough, Marilyn	CO	Refererd by: Gaby Usmar
Milano, Patricia		CO	Referred by: Debi Melton
Sauer, Greg	Sauer, Sheri	CO	Refererd by: Barb McNelly
Morrison, Lynne	Morrison, Brian	NC	Referred by: RV Show





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Retiree Rally 2025 - Dothan, Alabama



53rd Family Campers & RVers International Retiree Rally 2025 Invites You!

By Steve & Diane Hitchens, Rally Coordinators

March will be here before you know it!!! Our FCRV 53rd Retiree Rally will be held at the National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds, 5622 Highway 231 South, Dothan, Alabama 36301 starting March 24 through March 30, 2025. Early days will be March 21st through the 23rd. Come early and explore the area.

We are working on some of the details already. We still need several chairpersons to help with Arts and Crafts, Goody Bags, Mail and Info, Special Needs, and Veterans. If you would like to help in one of these areas or any other that you think of, please contact us.

Steve: srhitchens@gmail.com;

Diane: beetledee@cox.net

We would like to personally invite YOU to attend this celebration of the end of winter and spring into spring with us. Celebrate "SPRING HAS SPRUNG" in Dothan, Alabama in March! Remember, you do not have to be retired to come to the Rally, you just have to be ready to have a good time!

[Click here for event info & registration](#)

[Join in on the discussion at the 2025 Retiree Rally Facebook group](#)

Click the link above or scan the code below.



Retiree Rally 2025 - Dothan, Alabama

Collections at Retiree Rally 2025

By Karin Snyder, Food Bank/Lap
Robes/Collections Chair

I'm looking forward to the upcoming Retiree Rally in Dothan, Alabama next March!!

I wanted to touch base with everyone to remind them of what we will be collecting at the rally!! Again, afghans/lap robes, of course, from all our talented members. I am sure your hands are busy at work!! Can't wait to see all your beautiful creations.

We will also be collecting the pop tabs which will be donated to a Ronald Mc Donald House. In addition, we will be collecting plastic bread tags that come on loaves of bread, bagels, potatoes, lemons, etc. These will be donated to an organization called Danielle Cares for Chairs. These help purchase wheelchairs for people in need!!!
<https://daniellecaresforch.wixsite.com/daniellecaresforchair>.

Make sure you are all saving up.....have your family and friends save up too as again we will have first place prizes for both of these areas (pop tabs & bread tags)!!

Can't wait to see what we can collect this year!! you just have to be ready to have a good time!



FCRV International Retiree King & Queen 2025 Info By LaNelle & Leon Ishmael, King & Queen Coordinators

Retiree Rally 2024 is behind us as is Campvention 2024. We imagine most regions have also had their rallies. Let's turn our attention to the 2025 Retiree Rally in Dothan, Alabama. As we stated at the 2024 rally, the king and queen contest has been part of our tradition since 1973. It is not a pageant. It is simply a fun way of choosing a couple to represent FCRV. As a contestant, you have an opportunity to get to know so many people that you may have only given a nod to or just said "hi" to if you were not campaigning. As for the ones voting, it is always exciting to see what trinket you will be enticing them with next. When we think back through the years we have attended, the rallies we remember how hard it was deciding between the couples. We took careful thought as to what they had done in FCRV. Hopefully, it will also draw more people from your state or province to back you, thus increasing attendance.

When we were elected in 2012, we felt it a great honor to represent the organization. We made so many new friends that year that have been lasting relationships. We were able to add awareness to FCRV by being called on to speak at a local civic group.

Most people think you have to travel. Yes, you will get invitations to other state and provincial campouts, but you do not have to attend. The only thing asked is that you return the following year to the next retiree rally to relinquish the crowns.

We have been making phone calls, emails, etc. and it seems people are losing interest. We hope we get some response from the membership soon. Will you please consider running?

Please don't let this tradition die. Start thinking about running. First, get backing from your state or province. Once you are elected King and Queen of your state or province, contact us for an application.

Leon_ishmael@yahoo.com 515-520-7958
lanelleishmael@yahoo.com 803-341-2470

Campvention 2025 - Lebanon, Tennessee

[More Info](#)

[Register](#)

[Forms](#)

Join 'The Spirit of Friendship' at Campvention 2025

By Ed Shaneyfelt, Chairman and Shari Weber, Co-Chairwoman

'The Spirit of Friendship' will be alive at the 65th Annual Campvention being held at the James E. Ward Agricultural Center in Lebanon, Tennessee. (www.wilsoncountyfairgrounds.com) Save the dates July 20th through 26th with early days starting on July 18th. Come to Lebanon to renew old friendships and form new ones. The Lebanon team is working hard to create a week of fellowship, friendship, and fun! Lebanon is near the state capitol, Nashville. Plan a side trip to the Ryman Auditorium or The Grand Ole' Opry. Other fun things to see include Cedars of Lebanon State Park, Splish Splash Waterpark, The Capitol Theater, museums, the Cumberland River, and a variety of other fun adventures.

Wednesday will be "Tour Day" at Campvention. The schedule will be light to leave room to enjoy the many things to do in the area. There will be opportunities to select from about 6 different tours that interest you. Transportation options to and from Nashville from Campvention grounds are being researched. Watch future issues of Camping Today and social media posts for specific information on tours available. If you don't like any of the tours we found, feel free to venture out on your own.

Ever heard of a Tennessee Mountain Stack Cake? It is something like pancakes layered with dried apples, apple butter, or apple preserves. Apples were used because they are plentiful in Tennessee. Similar to the European torte, it was a substitute for the much more expensive layered wedding cake. Guests all brought a layer to the wedding and apples were spread between the layers. It is said that the number of layers indicated how popular the bride was. The stack cake has as many variations as bakers who bake it. At our opening hospitality we will be offering a taste of a Tennessee Mountain Stack Cake.



Chair – Ed Shaneyfelt
Co-Chair – Shari Weber



Campvention 2025 - Lebanon, Tennessee



Tennessee Mountain Stack Cake

[Dried Apple Stack Cake - Appalachian History](#)

There are some things you will need to be aware of that are agreements in our contract with the James E. Ward Agricultural Center. We have agreed to the following stipulations from the grounds:

- NO balloons of any kind are allowed on the property, inside or outside of buildings.
- Glitter, confetti, open flame candles, tape, tacks, staples or similar are NOT allowed.
- Buildings without a kitchen-no cooking inside or within 20 ft. of entry.
- Tables and chairs are set up and must be returned to their original location.
- Trash is to be removed and placed in the dumpster behind Building B.
- **Alcohol use is prohibited.**
- No fireworks or campfires.
- No Razor or Razor racing type vehicles allowed on premises.
- Anyone driving a motorized vehicle of any kind must have a valid driver's license.
- Failure to follow the rules can result in deposit retention

Please keep these things in mind when planning activities and displays. **Our policy of no open consumption and responsible behavior will have to prevail with regard to alcohol. So, no alcohol bottles or cans can be visible.**

We get a lot of questions about whether tabs or bottle caps are being collected. Neither will be collected at Campvention. All states and chapters should continue to collect these and take them locally to get cash and donate to a local Ronald McDonald House for the tabs. Bottle caps will vary as to whether they can be recycled. Please be sure to share your donation story in Camping Today.

On the last day of Campvention we have typically enjoyed a parade. It showcases the talents and imaginations of our members. At one time the parade was held in the community as a “thank you” for the hosting community. Recently this has simply not been possible. We want to assess the interest in continuing to hold a parade. The theme is yet to be determined. Forms will be in next month’s “Camping Today” to register for the parade. If we have at least 10 entries by January 1, 2025 we will hold the parade. Remember the parade can be walking or riding. Chapters, families, and individuals are encouraged to participate.

If you have never been to a campvention, haven’t attended one in a while, or haven’t missed one in the last few years, this will be the one you want to attend. We have a variation from what the schedule has previously been like over the past years. Keep watching for updates of what the plans are and hopefully we will see you in Lebanon!



[Join in on the discussion at the 2025 Campvention Facebook group](#)

Indiana Fall State Campout

Indiana Fall State Campout

Indiana Retiree Rally will be September 25-27 at [Amishville Campground in Geneva](#), Indiana. After the retirees enjoy their few days, the Indiana Fall Invitational will start on the 27-29 at the same location. I know the retirees like to “eat” and/or go out to eat, so if you would like to join them, please come hungry.

The theme for our Indiana Fall Invitational is Hawaiian, so come prepared to attend our Hawaiian games and Hawaiian food. Will there be Spam and pineapples? The answer may be yes!!! If you are interested in joining us, please let me know as soon as possible to make sure you get a site. We had FCRV members last year from Indiana (of course), Illinois, Michigan and even New York! The Indiana Trustees host this campout and they do not disappoint! If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please email me at indianafcrv@gmail.com



North East Regional Campout

North East Regional Campout

Riding the wave of success in hosting the national Campvention, New York is holding the Northeast Regional Campout, which will take place September 20-22 at [Frances Slocum State Park](#) in Pennsylvania. A pancake breakfast and Hobo Soup pot on Saturday will bring members together for a good time, along with shared games and campfires. Look for pictures and follow-up information in the near future.



Event Schedule & Recaps



[Click Here For Full Event Calendar]

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
 August 20 at 5:00 AM

OPA's Independent members welcomed 32 units to the Harriston, Ontario for a simplified, "back to basics" Spring OPA Campout. Members enjoyed a "Show & Tell" Hobby Display, Washer Toss, Movie & Popcorn, Penny Sale, Ice Cream sundaes, card bingo & beef supper.
 County of Wellington



Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
 August 22 at 5:00 AM

Happy Wanderers at Grandview in Moodus. Four FCRV families and their children and grandchildren attended. Relaxed at the pool. Jerry and Pam watched the Olympics and reported what happened. We enjoyed a campfire with deserts and Saturday night potluck.

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
 August 24 at 5:00 AM

Pitch 'n' Pull camped at Blue Springs Ranch, Bourbon, MO. We enjoyed the natural beauty of the area and attractions in nearby towns of Cuba and St. James. As always, good food and friendships were enjoyed.
 City of Cuba, Missouri

Event Schedule & Recaps

Colorado Family Campers & RV'ers
 Top contributor · September 3 at 7:57 PM · 🌐

Colorado FCRV Viewfinders went on a Troll hike in Victor, CO to meet Rita the Troll. Victor, Colorado is a short drive from Cripple Creek.



Kathy Murphy Collier
 August 31 at 9:27 PM · 🌐

Ken ton a wanderers from WNY are camping at Darien Lakes SP



Scenic Lens - Your place for scenic photos
 August 17 at 2:29 PM · 🌐

Camp Fire Coyotes enjoying the Ranger Lakes, comradeship and some fun.



Rick Walorski is with Teresa Walorski at Pleasant Valley RV Park.
 August 24 at 11:56 AM · Howard, CO · 🌐

Teresa and I camped in Howard Colorado on the Arkansas River.

This is a fantastic campground!

#yourchairawaits



Event Schedule & Recaps



—SORRY FOR—
WHAT I SAID WHILE WE WERE

PARKING THE
TRAILER

YARs - Chapter Summer Campout

YARs - Chapter Summer Campout

By DeWayne Johnston

Nineteen slightly weary units pulled into the spacious Crazy Acres Campground in Davenport, New York and began the week of relaxing around the food tables and campfires. Day one was interrupted by rain, and the traditional Root Beer Floats were held the following night after a plentiful supper of hot dogs around the campfire.

During the week several people enjoyed the park's Nature Walk. Cards were also an evening pastime. Tuesday everyone went into Davenport to the Depot Restaurant, located in the restored train station. That evening a business meeting was held, and the origin of the FCRV Young Active Retiree chapter was discussed as well as next winter's next Retiree Rally in Dothan, Alabama.

President Joe Wingert presided, and Shari Weber collected dues from new members. New members who joined will be listed in the next "Notes in A Bottle." A special thanks to Dora and Jim Lewis for filling in for the original host who was unable to attend. Past FCRV President Jack Smye traveled from Canada in his motorhome and enjoyed seeing everyone at Campvention and YARs campout after.





Do you have questions about your RV, accessories, best practices, etc? Submit them to Dear RV and our staff will attempt to answer them. The answers are based on years of camping experience, but we don't guarantee that the answers will apply to your specific unit or situation. If someone submits a question and you can add to our answer OR have a better answer, please submit below with information about the original question. Your submission will be reviewed for possible publication in a future Dear RV Q&A. So, send us your questions and we will send you an answer. Remember, all submissions are anonymous. Us here at Dear RV! Question(s) or comment(s) for Dear RV.

Submit here: <https://fcrv.org/dear-rv/>

Dear RV

We are looking to upgrade our rig, and our question is do you have any suggestions other than the usual dealer options? Thanks for your help,

Searching

Searching, there are several things that come to mind. First is Facebook Marketplace. Another place a rig for sale can be found is parked in a visible place at a shopping center on weekends. Your local Craigslist ads are often good places to find a rig. There is a website called RV Trader. Local newspapers classified ads are another source. Many of these are online. The possibilities are endless. No matter what avenue you use, be alert for scams and know what you are looking at. If the deal seems too good to be true it probably is! Do your research and know what you are looking at before giving someone your hard earned money. Open all the doors and drawers; look under the dinette, and in all outdoor storage areas. Look for problems, kick the tires, and yes, some people even get on the ground and check the undercarriage. Is the wiring harness too tight? It could short out if rubbing on the frame and cause electrical issues. Hanging wires are not good either. This is the time to be an educated consumer. Trying to get problems solved after you have paid for the RV is usually a challenge, so address them before you sign on the dotted line.

Good Luck on finding a different rig and Thanks for asking Dear RV

Dear RV

Listening to mountain biking podcasts provides a great method to find motivation and knowledge about the sport. These broadcasts often feature conversations with veteran riders, industry experts, and stories from cycling fans, covering a wide range of subjects from riding skills and equipment assessments to individual journeys and professional insights.

Getting your chosen broadcasts to your gadget lets you tune in during your journeys, daily transport, or free time. This not only keeps you engaged and knowledgeable but also provides a mindset uplift and keeps your love for off-road riding strong. By including shows into your routine, you can regularly gain knowledge and remain motivated, rendering your trail cycling experience even more fun.

Mountain bike enthusiast

Thank you for sharing this information. Our members who enjoy mountain biking will appreciate these suggestions. Mountain biking is one of the many activities in our Camping Actively Moving Program (C.A.M.P.) where we feature many different activities involving movement. The following link will get you to our information <https://fcrv.org/programs2/national-programs/c-a-m-p-program/>

Thank you for sharing with Dear RV

410-533-0038
marshall
creations
marshallcreations16@gmail.com



Personalized garments; drinkware; clings; decals; kitchen & bath items. You can choose from our large graphic collection or use your photos or designs.

For FCRV branded items:

https://stores.inksoft.com/fc_rv/shop/home

For other items:

<https://stores.inksoft.com/marshallcreations16/shop/home>

Call or text: 410-533-0038

Marshallcreations16@gmail.com



crazyacrescampground.com

(607) 278-5293

263 Beaver Spring Road Davenport, NY 13750

Get Directions – Email the Campground – Reserve Online

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FAMILY CAMPERS & RVers 2025 CAMPVENTION

"Spirit of Friendship"

July 20-26, 2025

James E Ward Agricultural Center
945 E Baddour Pkwy, Lebanon, TN 37087



REGISTRATION:

Welcome to Campvention 2025. Everyone must complete a registration form, including second families and camp day passes. Submit payment with the completed form. All funds shall be in US currency, including checks and money orders. There will be room for you if you decide to come at the last minute. Simply bring this registration form with you.

****Refund policy:** If you are unable to attend, all except \$25 will be refunded AFTER the conclusion of 2025 Campvention.

Registration deadline May 15th - Pay before December 31, 2024, to receive a \$25 discount (\$325.00).

	<u>Registration</u>	<u>At Gate</u>
One Family in the Unit	\$350.00	\$385.00
Extra Family in the Unit (separate pay)	\$180.00	\$200.00
Week Drive-in Day Pass (June23-29)	\$175.00	\$190.00
Drive-in Day Pass (per day)	\$30.00	\$35.00

Early Bird Days: July 18 - 19 @ \$30/night (pay upon arrival – cash/check). The gates will be open Friday at 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Are you an FCRV member: Yes ___ No ___ Please provide your Member # if known: _____

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

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____ 2ndEmail: _____

Is this your first Campvention? Yes ___ No ___ Are you a Veteran and what branch? _____

Number of people in your unit: Adults: _____ Teens: _____ Youth: 9 – 12 _____ Youth: 5 – 8 _____

Total number of people in Unit: _____

****Please list the names and ages of all youth and teens on the back of this form.**

We would like to help with event(s) at Campvention. Staff will follow up with a contact if yes: Yes ___ No ___

CAMPVENTION PARKING: (There will be no special needs sites available at the gate.)

Check if you are requesting a special needs site: _____ (Valid Handicap parking proof must be presented upon arrival.)

Please note the LENGTH of camping rig behind type:

Motorhome _____ 5th Wheel _____ Travel Trailer _____ Pop-Up _____ Number of slide outs _____

Electricity: 30 amp _____ 50 amp _____ (50amp is limited. Handicap first. Then first come, first served.)

****Bring extension cords. Water available. Bring hoses and Y connectors.**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FCRV Campvention 2025 Funds

Mail checks and completed forms to:

FCRV Campvention 2025
137 Crandon Blvd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

For inquiries please call (716)668-6242.
Confirmations will be sent via Email.
Please allow a month for Processing.



53rd FCRV INTERNATIONAL RETIREE RALLY
National Peanut Festival Fairground
5622 Hwy 231 S, Dothan, Alabama 36301
Rally Dates: March 24 – March 30, 2025
Early Days: March Wednesday 19th - Sunday 23rd

Please Complete All Of The Following: (Please Print)

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse/Other _____

Address _____ City _____ St/Pr _____ Code _____

Mailing Address of Other: _____ # of People In Unit _____

Cell Phone #1 _____ Cell Phone #2 _____

Email Address _____ Confirmation Send By: Pdf _____ Word _____

Mailed: _____ Mailing Address If Different From Above: _____

Registering For Camping: On Grounds _____ Off Grounds _____ Camp Pass _____

Is this your first retiree rally? **Yes** _____ **no** _____ Are you a veteran? **Yes** _____ **no** _____

Special Needs: Must have on file with the registrar: License registration including handicap Plate, or handicap placard. This area is reserved for wheelchairs, walkers, or those with limited mobility.

REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE MARCH 1, 2025 DEADLINE.

Registrations received after March 1st or registering at the gate will incur an additional \$25 fee.

Early Days: Early days fee of \$40 per night per unit will be collected by the treasurer at the registration desk.

Included In The Fee: Full Hook-Ups, (30/50 Amp), Ice Cream Social, 2 Dinners, Entertainment, and a lot of fun.

	Early Registration	At gate
2 People In Unit	\$350	\$375
1 Person In Unit	\$320	\$345

Camp Pass Staying In Unit On Grounds As 2nd Family In Unit:

2 People	\$110
1 Person	\$80

I Would Like To Volunteer For:

Camp Pass Staying Off Grounds:

2 People	\$110
1 Person	\$80

Refunds: All but \$35 will be refunded if cancellation notice is received two weeks prior to the rally. After the rally deadline of March 1, 2025, only the camping fee will be refunded. A refund requested after the rally starts will be made after the rally has ended.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FCRV/NCHA RETIREE RALLY

Mail to: Mildred Pauwels, P.O. Box 193, Dana, N.C. 28724

NO CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED