CAMPING TODAY

THE VOICE OF FAMILY CAMPERS & RVERS

OCTOBER 2025 ISSUE

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FCRV/NCHA SCHOLARSHI

09

NATIONAL ELECTIONS

<u>19</u>

SANDHILL CRANE MIGRATION

Printable PDF

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Please send articles through the 'Camping Today' Submission Portal Page:

https://fcrv.org/camping-today-submission-forms/

National Officers

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VP of Operations: <u>Linda English</u>

Recording Officer: <u>Teresa Walorski</u>

VP of Programs: <u>Ed Shaneyfelt</u>

VP of Planning & Development: <u>Daniel Tinter</u>

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Camping Today' Submission Forms

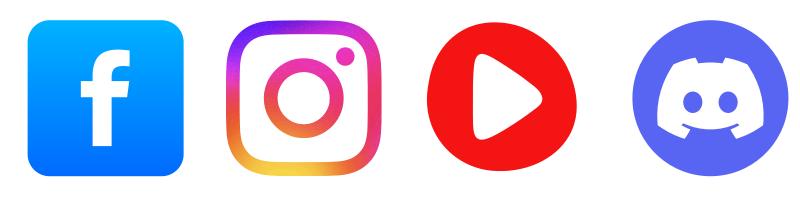
['Camping Today' is currently scheduled for release on the 15th of each month.]

[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







From The President



As FCRV moves into the future we are faced with many changes and struggles to overcome. With declining membership and raising costs we work to keep the organization secure. By now many of you have heard that we are considering raising dues. This is true; we have held discussions at Campvention 2025; during the Executive/Advisory Council meeting this was an in-depth conversation. The Trustees made this a topic of discussion in a meeting and returned the compiled information for review by the Executive/Advisory Council for their input on the final decision. In reviewing records, it was in 2008 that FCRV last raised the dues. That was 17 years ago, and as we all know everything has gone up in the last 17 years. Yes, this was a failure on the Trustees for not raising the dues, but I will defend the past boards as the blowback from you the members was brutal and hateful. It was wounds the board carried with them, and some still do, thus leaving a reluctance to raise the dues that would leave an adverse effect on this wonderful organization. Yes. we have always relied on the reserves that we have in the bank. This has kept us afloat and is a false sense of security that we for 20 years have taken for granted. We are at a crossroads with rising costs and declining membership about to collide. Yes, raising the dues is not the only answer to this problem. We are also promoting sharing and growing the membership. This is each of our responsibilities over the coming year. We launched Project Keystone also have conjunction with Campvention 2026 in Huron SD. More to Come.

On another note, for many of us the camping year s at a close. We will be or have already winterized the rig putting it away for the next camping season. I hope your club continues to have activities each month together.

Be sure to reach out to the members that do not make it to your winter functions. Oftentimes, as our members and friends are out of touch, they begin to feel unimportant, and we can see depression set in. Often, just letting your friends know that they are important is the one small thing that changes their life. As a reminder, don't forget to winterize ahead of the freezing weather.

Your Chair Awaits, See You at the Next Campout. On another note, for many of us the camping year is at a close. We will be or have already winterized the rig putting it away for the next camping season. I hope your club continues to have activities each month together. Be sure to reach out to the members that do not make it to your winter functions. Oftentimes, as our members and friends are out of touch, they begin to feel unimportant, and we can see depression set in. Often, just letting your friends know that they are important is the one small thing that changes their life. As a reminder, don't forget to winterize ahead of the freezing weather.

Your Chair Awaits, See You at the Next Campout. Gerry Pfirsch





From The Trustees

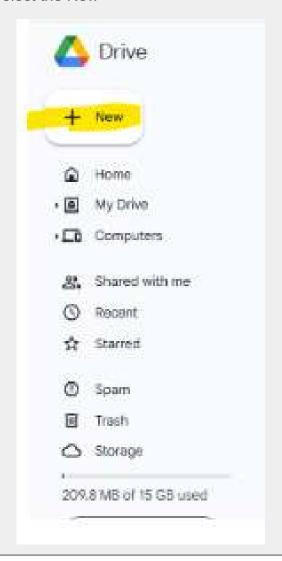


Secretary Duties - Information

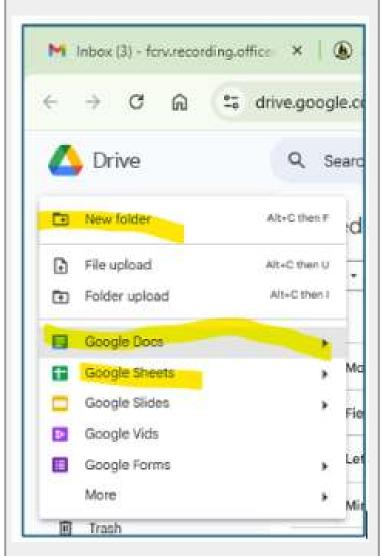
By Teresa Walorski, Recording/Corresponding
Officer

Hello, if you are responsible for keeping minutes for your chapter or region, using the virtual office is the way to go. Any minutes you save in the system will be there for all who have been given access to view. If and when there is a change in duties, the next person will have all the background and can continue to save minutes or documents there.

Once in the Virtual Office (Google Drive), you can add new folders per year or per event per year. Select the New -



Then you have the option of a New Folder or new Google Docs.



Keeping your information is keeping your history. Please reach out to me, Teresa Walorski, your Recording/Corresponding Officer if you want to review this further. Thank you!





From The Trustees



From the VP of Programs

By Ed Shaneyfelt

It was a busy year since chairing the National Campvention in Lebanon, Tennessee and my other duties. I've heard lots of compliments from everyone who attended. I would like to thank everyone who helped me make it a great success.

Over the next few months, I will be having the program directors help me rewrite their programs so that the website will be updated for current guidelines. I am looking into revamping the teens to make it current. Anyone who would like to help with this or would like to be a director reach out to me or any trustee to be considered.

It is almost time for us northern campers to think about winterizing our campers. It was a great season that went by way too fast!



NCHA/FCRV Hank Nathan Scholarship Program



Have We Got A Scholarship For You!

By Stan And Fran Vozar, Scholarship Directors

Greetings from Stan and Fran. All of the members of our scholarship team are feverishly preparing documents for the opening of the 2026 Hank Nathan Scholarship campaign.

Last scholarship year we had 5 applicants and we are proud to say they all received awards which totaled over \$12,000! We also changed our application format to expectations built on strong character, leadership, future goals, community involvement, good grades and of course, camping experiences. And, we expanded our scholarship offer to those of you who may be considering a job change or advancement within your career of choice through post graduate masters classes. AND very special consideration will be given to FCRV members choosing a career in Forestry, Wildlife Management, ecology, and outdoor education.

Yes, we have a scholarship for you; or maybe your son or daughter. Or other FCRV members within your circle of friends. There are two easy ways to spread the news: word of mouth, and CAMPING TODAY publications... Oh, yes, another way to spread the news: forward your Camping Today mailing to a friend who is not a member and let him know what a great organization we are and how we care about our planet and wildlife and creating habitats for them.

Scholarship applications will be offered only in our special portal beginning this December 15, 2025 and will close on May 1, 2026. And we have one especially waiting for you.



FCRV Financial Position June 2025



\$381.31

\$1,072.92 \$337.22 \$383.82 \$497.51

Statement of Financial Position Family Campers & Rvers as of 6/30/2025

Assets		Liabilities & Equity
Current Assets		Current Liabilities
Office Checking	\$2,243.58	Corp Credit Card
Operating Checking	\$6,310.85	Payroll Liabilities
Odd Campvention Checking	\$43,553.99	Federal Taxes (941/944)
Even Campvention Checking	\$5,300.00	NY Personal Leave Policy
Retiree Checking	\$15,693.72	NYS Employment Taxes
Fidelity Money Markets	\$31,186.49	NYS Income Tax
Fidelity Mutual Funds	\$119,883.92	Accrued P/R Severance CWF
Other Assets		Other Liabilities
Due from Wildlife	\$289.39	Campvention Fund Even
Pre-paid Liability Ins	\$11,769.93	Campvention Fund Odd
		Region 3 Funds - Held



Total Assets \$236,231.87

	7 - 57.51
Accrued P/R Severance CWF	\$1,500.20
Other Liabilities	
Campvention Fund Even	\$5,300.00
Campvention Fund Odd	\$43,553.99
Region 3 Funds - Held	\$1,854.83
Band Fund	\$1,123.96
Veterans Memorial Fund	\$797.00
Teen Fund	\$2,074.18
Retiree Fund	\$365.00
Retiree Checking	\$15,693.72
Total Liabilities	\$74,935.66
Total Liabilities Equity	\$74,935.66
	\$74,935.66 \$321,343.31
Equity	
Equity Fund Balance	\$321,343.31
Equity Fund Balance Opening Bal Equity	\$321,343.31 -\$814.58
Equity Fund Balance Opening Bal Equity Unrealized Gain/Loss Investments	\$321,343.31 -\$814.58 \$37,836.75
Equity Fund Balance Opening Bal Equity Unrealized Gain/Loss Investments Retained Earnings	\$321,343.31 -\$814.58 \$37,836.75 -\$151,953.69

Total Liabilities & Equity \$236,231.87



Youth of the Year 2025



Youth of the Year 2025

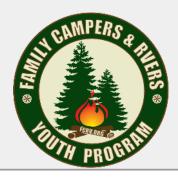
By Barb McHale, National Youth Director

Avery Wood was named FCRV Youth of the Year 2025. Her parents Michelle and Ben Wood are lifetime members from NY.

This past year has been a busy one for Avery. She attended Campvention in Herkimer NY in June 2024. There she participated in youth activities 4 hours each day. She enjoyed the 8am CAMP walks. She helped build a float for the parade and participated in the parade with the youth. She also sang a solo at the "campfire". Her previous FCRV participation included entering the Camping Is Coloring Contest.

Her school related activities for the past 12 months included Crochet Club, Cooking Club, Band, Chorus, Soccer, and Basketball. Other organizations she has been involved with for the past 12 months include Morristown Fish and Game Archery Club, Morristown Farmers Market, Seaway Smash Volleyball Club, and Fastpitch Softball. She also participates with the Carthage Y Recreational Level 3 Gymnastics class.

On Thursday Evening at campvention in Lebanon, Tennessee, Avery was awarded a medal and certificate for her accomplishments. You may have met her in Lebanon at a CAMP walk, playing pickleball or softball, or selling her crochet projects at the market place. Congratulations Avery!









FCRV NATIONAL ELECTIONS



Call for Nominations 2026 - 2028

By Jack Smye Chairman, FCRV Nominating Committee

Nominations are being accepted for one half of Trustees (nationally elected officers) who will govern the operations of the Family Campers & RVers (FCRV) during the 2026/2028 term of office.

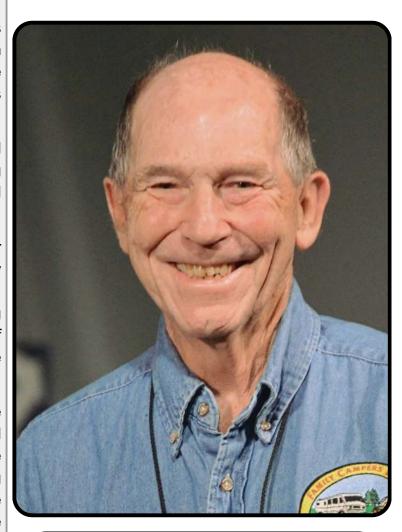
International President, Gerry Pfirsch has established a nominating committee of which I am the chair to find and vet suitable candidates for the election. The deadline for nominations is December 15, 2025.

The positions to be elected are International President, VP Programs and Recording /Correspondence officer all of whom are elected by the membership.

Any FCRV member in good standing is eligible for nomination consideration. Please immediately contact your respective State/Provincial Director, Regional Director, any member of the nominating committee, or me if you are interested in any of these offices (or can suggest a person whom we should seek).

Once a nomination slate has been selected by the nominating committee, each candidate will complete a resume and platform which will be published in the February 2026 issue of "Camping Today". Ballots for a contested election will be distributed at the beginning of March 2026 with the deadline for voting being April 15, 2026.

Please make sure your correct email address is on file with the national database. Your State/Provincial Director or Regional Director can help check your email address. If you cannot participate in electronic balloting and will not be at your membership residence on file with the office, absentee ballots must be requested by January 15, 2026 indicating the alternate address. Make your request for an absentee ballot to Carl (716) 668-6242 at the national office or by email fcrvoffice@gmail.com.



Jack Smye can be contacted at: slsmye@sympatico.ca



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, 2025 for inclusion in the December 2025 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:

Foote, James	Foote, Danene	СО	Referred by: Danny Hodges
Olp, Evan	Whittington, Jacob	IL	Referred by: Internet Search
Denning, Holly		СО	Referred by: Connie & Mike Davidson
Jackson, William	Rouleau, Lise	ON	Referred by: Bill & Debbie Black
Thomas, Michael	Strallow, Donna	NC	Referred by: Frankie Medlin





Trustee Meeting Notes



These notes are now being stored in the Virtual Office by National and sent via email to the executive and advisory boards. These notes can and are encouraged to be shared throughout the organization. The archive and single page notes are set up as a shareable link that is viewable by any 3rd party.

A history of past minutes can be found **HERE**.





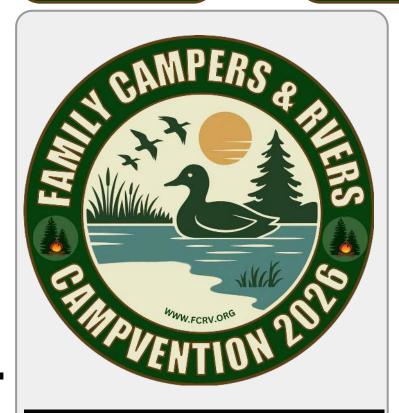
Campvention 2026 - Huron, South Dakota



More Info

<u>Register</u>

Forms



Click here for event info & registration

Join in on the discussion at the 2026 Campvention

Facebook group

Click the link above or scan the code below.



CAMPVENTION 2026 "Where The Flock Gathers"

Heartland Region invites you to the 66th annual FCRV Campvention, to be held at the South Dakota State Fairgrounds at Huron July 5th to the 11th, 2026. Early bird days are July 3rd and 4th.

In addition to renewing old friendships and making new friends, you'll discover the rich cultural heritage, Native American and pioneer history, and the beautiful scenery of the Huron area. Huron's history is on display through its colorful outdoor murals as well as several historic museums and buildings. The city offers family entertainment (including a water park), numerous recreational opportunities, water activities (such as fishing, paddle boats, swimming), and walking trails.

Huron is located in the east central part of the state, but you are encouraged to come to Campvention early or stay late, to see the iconic Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorial tribute to the Native American tribal leader, both in southwest South Dakota; the 50-foot sculpture, "Dignity of Earth and Sky," along the Missouri River near Chamberlain; DeSmet, home of Laura Ingalls Wilder, about 35 miles from Huron; and the world's only Corn Palace (with exterior murals covered in corn, grains and grasses), in Mitchell, about 55 miles from Huron. And South Dakota has so much more to offer travelers!

Heartland Region 3 FCRVers are planning many familiar Campvention activities and adventures, along with special programs and activities focusing on local conservation and wildlife. They invite you to come and discover all that Campvention 2026, Huron and South Dakota have to offer!



Retiree Rally 2026 - Mineola, Texas



More Info





Click here for event info & registration

Join in on the discussion at the 2026 Retiree Rally

Facebook group

Click the link above or scan the code below.



Retiree Rally 2026 "Circle The Wagons"

Are you ready to join us to CIRCLE THE WAGONS next March? This rally is open to all members of FCRV, not just to retirees! There is so much fun awaiting you, so invite your camping friends and introduce them to our FCRV family. There is so much to see and do while you are there, and the amenities are 1st class! We will be updating you each month. The RV sites are very special as they are in front of the Center where we meet and form a double round ring that allows for SHORT WALKS. The sites have FULL HOOKUPs with BOTH 30 AND 50AMP, as we will CIRCLE THE WAGONS!

The 54th FCRV INTERNATIONAL RETIREE RALLY will be held at the Mineola Civic Center, 1150 N Newsom Street, Mineola, TX 75773.

Rally Dates: March 23 – March 29, 2026 Early Days: March 20th - March 22nd

Come early, as this is a fun place to explore!

We are excited to have Harlan Nigh and Lori Springer co-hosting with us. We are working on the details, and we have a good group of people who have offered to chair the committees. We need more volunteers to help make this a success. Please feel free to contact us with any help or suggestions.

Ken: <u>ken.andrews1348@gmail.com</u> Betty: <u>UBetUKen2@gmail.com</u>

We look forward to seeing you in Mineola, in March of

2026



Event Schedule & Recaps















Event Schedule & Recaps





Family Campers & RVers - FCRV

Published by Forrest Camperson ② · September 26 at 5:00 AM · ③

18 families attended the OPA campout at Cedar Rail Campground. Campers enjoyed group meals, campfires, golf, card games, live entertainment, dancing & a tour of a Nuclear Power facility.











Published by Forrest Camperson @ - September 4 - @

Cripple Creek, CO, was the destination of the Co Trailblazers for their campout. The Trailblazers camped at the Cripple Creek Hospitality House and RV Park. We had s'mo... See more











Family Campers & RVers - FCRV Published by Forrest Camperson 🔞 - September 2 - 🔇

The Silver Foxes Hill City, SD campout was enjoyed by 11 members & 2 guests. Ice cream social, potluck, games, eat out, exploring Mt Rushmore, Chapel in the Hills, Cus... See more









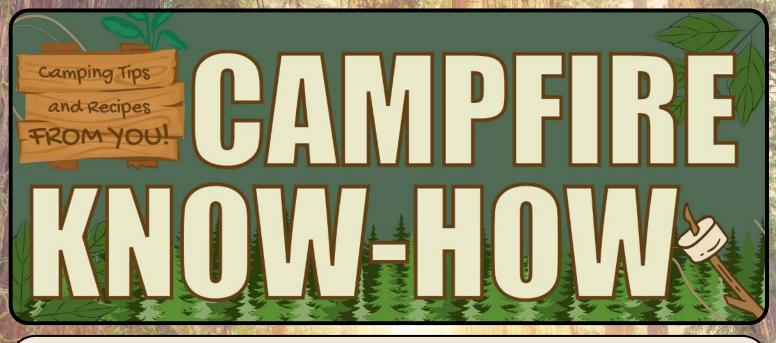
The Roaming Buffalo of Jamestown hosted the 2025 ND State Campvention at Steele. Highlights were daily CAMP walks, a tour of the Kidder County Courthouse, painted clay ... See more











Campfire Know-How is looking for your best camping contributions! Share your favorite recipes, handy tips, activity ideas, or tried-and-true advice for life around the campfire. Got a funny camping story or meme you've created? We'd love to see those too! Submissions are welcome in any form; photos, artwork, videos, or written pieces. Let's hear from you and keep the spirit of camping alive!

Submit here: https://fcrv.org/campfire-know-how

CAMPFIRE TREATS

INGREDIENTS

- Marshmallows
- Chocolate
- Graham Crackers
- Skewers

INSTRUCTIONS

- Roast marshmallows over the campfire
- Sandwich with chocolate and graham crackers
- 3. Enjoy!

CAMPING TIP



Never leave a campfire unattended

Keep a water and a shovel nearby to extinguish it properly.



Disaster and Safety Awareness Training Program



The Big Yellow Bus

By Joe Boswell, National D.A.S.A.T. Director

All across the county schools have opened their doors for another school year. Summer is over and all of the fun has stopped and the process of education has started once again. The children of all ages are now waiting at the end of their street or driveway for the big yellow school bus to pick them up and transport them to school. In a few instances the older students who are allowed to drive are also now on the roads in greater numbers. A part of our D.A.S.A.T. Program is safety for everyone thus let us all explore some of the basic safety precautions when you see the big yellow school bus with its blinking yellow and red light activated.

First respect the stop sign. It means stop-and stay stopped for a few seconds before proceeding. Look both ways very carefully before you proceed as someone else may not be stopping. School buses are one of the safest ways for a child to get to school. The drivers of our school buses go through various hours of safety training on how to drive the bus as well as how to protect the passengers at all times.

The passengers are also informed about the expectations of riding in a school bus. Thus the driver of the bus and the occupants all need to work together so everyone conducts themselves in a safe manner.

In most states when you come upon a bus that has activated the red lights and has extended the safety arm you are to stop. Once the red lights have gone out and the bus begins to move, you can move. This does not apply if you are on a divided highway.

Remember to keep a safe distance from the school bus as it travels down the road. It may be making various stops along the way. If you do not slow down and anticipate the stopping and starting of the bus, you may find yourself meeting the bumper of the bus causing an accident. Do not be in such a hurry, keep your speed down and watch carefully for the constant changes a bus will make as it travels down the road.

Speeding is the number one reason for accidents. Thus control your speed, and drive sensibly. Here are some hints to control your speed. First and foremost simply slow down and stop speeding. Observe the posted speed limits. Watch for flashing yellow lights that may reduce the speed limit at any given time. Remember around school zones some students may be walking near the roadways. When you slow down you can react faster and prevent the risk of hitting a student walking to or from school. Keep in mind the walkers many times are not paying attention to the moving traffic thus it is up to you to prevent accidents. Many times students are on their phone and do not pay attention to the flow of traffic around or in a school zone. Remember some students may walk or ride a bike to school. All students should be walking on the sidewalk and not in the roadway, except when using the proper crosswalks to cross the street. As a driver you should never block the crosswalk at the stop light or stop sign. Keep in mind some students will not be paying attention to crosswalks and will just cross the street anyplace they so desire. Be prepared to stop suddenly. As a brief reminder, remember to share the road with someone who is on a bike. especially around a school. For some this is their mode of transportation to and from the school on a daily basis.



Disaster and Safety Awareness Training Program



The entrances and exits to a school can be dangerous places. Everyone is coming and going all at the same time. This is an important time for all to look out for each other and follow the traffic patterns established around your schools. Follow the procedures for picking up and dropping off students at the school. Adhere to all traffic rules, slow down, drive with caution, speeding kills, safety of all is important, and prevent accidents. Avoid double parking. This blocks the visibility of all. Drivers cannot see students and students cannot see drivers. Stay off the phone and pay attention to what you are doing. Distracted driving hurts you and others involved because you were not paying attention to what you were doing. The phone call can wait. Focus your attention on where you are and what you are supposed to be doing in the school parking lot or school zone.

It is not just the drivers who need to be aware of the safety procedures around a school, it is the students as well. Students should be taught to observe the traffic signals. Students need to be taught where it is safe to cross the road. For safety reasons use the buddy system, when walking or riding the bike to school. Walking or riding with a friend can be fun for all. If you are riding a bike to school, always wear a helmet.

The morning and afternoon rush can lead to reckless driving. Plan ahead accordingly. Consider leaving earlier or later to avoid the rush and traffic. Learn to drive more cautiously in school zones. In some areas, cameras are there to help catch speeders. They like to take your picture and send you a fine for speeding in a school zone. In some cases cameras have been nstalled on the side of school buses to catch

people passing installed on the side of school buses to catch people passing the bus, and also for speeding. Learn where the schools are located in your community and be alert to the school zones so you can adjust your speed accordingly. Be aware of the changes in the start and dismissal school times. This could be because they have a half day of school, and or an early dismissal because of pending weather.

Now that the school year has begun, it will be everyone's responsibility to make sure the passengers on the bus and you are traveling safely. Follow these basic guidelines and the traffic laws in your given community. Remember taking the time to apply a little caution will make it safer for all involved. Let us all protect our children as they travel from home to school and back home again. The big yellow bus is out and about so be safe as you travel about during this school season.

Source:

https://smnewsnet.com/archives/536811/back-to-school-trafic-safety-protecing-out-children-as-the-new-school-year-begins/, 8/19/24





Wildlife - Sandhill Crane Migration



Sandhill Crane Migration

By JeAnne Selby, Region 3 Regional Director

FCRVers attending the 2025 Region 3 Regional Campvention hosted by Nebraska FCRVers at York learned about the crane behavior, migration, and viewing opportunities of Sandhill Cranes during an August 8th wildlife seminar.

The 45-minute afternoon presentation was given by Lola Hoover, Visitor Center Assistant of the Crane Trust, an independent non-profit conservation organization located on the Platte River in south central Nebraska. According to the Crane Trust website, the mission of the non-profit, founded in 1978, is to protect and preserve nearly 10,000 acres of critical habitat for the rarest and most numerous of the 15 species of cranes in the world — the endangered Whooping Cranes, Sandhill Cranes, and other species along the Platte River and adjacent prairies.

Nebraska is famous for its massive Sandhill Crane migration. The Platte River Valley is a major stopover for the Sandhill Cranes, but is only used by the Whooping Cranes in their Fall migration.

Each Spring almost a million Sandhill Cranes migrate from their breeding sites at Wood Buffalo Park in Canada through Nebraska's Platte River Valley. This gathering represents more than 80 percent of the mid-continent population of the species.

According to the Central Platte Resource District, the 2025 Spring migration count was a record-setting 736,000 Sandhill Cranes. The previous record was 670,702 in 2019. In November 2023, the Alda site (2 miles south of I-80 and exit 305) hosted a gathering of 95 endangered Whooping

Cranes, the largest group ever recorded in the U.S. outside of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in south Texas.

According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, there were an estimated 557 Whooping Cranes in the Aransas/Wood Buffalo population during the 2024 - 2025 Winter season.

Lola Hoover stated that over 300,000 Sandhill Cranes will spend about six weeks in the North Platte River Valley enroute to their breeding grounds. On their northward migration, the Sandhill Cranes will congregate in Nebraska from mid-February to early April, allowing them to feed and build energy to continue their northward journey.

Hoover talked about Sandhill Crane behavior, which includes elaborate "dances" for courtship and social bonding, various "threat" displays, and loud trumpeting calls for communications. The cranes exhibit strong family bonds for rearing their young and migration.

Sandhill Cranes usually mate for life, forming exclusive pair bonds that last till one of the partners dies, providing survival benefits and successful reproduction of their offspring. Sandhill Cranes typically lay two eggs, incubated and cared for by both parents, although usually only one of the hatchlings survives to become capable of the migratory flight. The new hatchlings remain with their parents for about 9 - 10 months, developing their skills and strength for the Fall migration before separating from their parents after their first Winter.

The Sandhill Cranes are active during the day, roosting at night in shallow water, for protection from predators. They may be seen during the day at nearby cornfields and marshes along the Platte River.



Wildlife - Sandhill Crane Migration



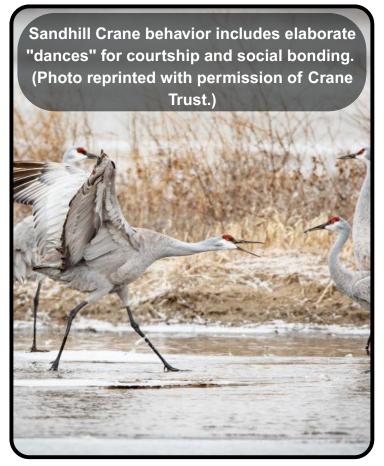
Sandhill Cranes fly at altitudes of between one and four miles, a distance of up to 600 miles per day, at speeds of 25 to 38 miles per hour, or greater, depending on conditions.

The average life span of wild Sandhill Cranes is seven years, although some survive to over 30 years old.

Hoover noted that guided viewing tours, although not necessary, are available through the Crane Trust. She also stated that maps are provided for self-guided vehicle tours. Numerous viewing sites, with blinds, are available along Interstate 80, from Wood River, Alda, Grand Island, and westward to North Platte, NE. The best viewing times are mornings and evenings, although the Sandhill Cranes may be seen in cornfields during the day.

More information on the Sandhill Cranes, the Crane Trust, and crane migration is available at https://cranetrust.org.









National Senior Games Gold Medalist



Bill Stirewalt, 2025 National Senior Games Gold Medalist

The National Senior Games were on Bill Stirewalt's 'bucket list' for years. At age 96, Bill six family members who were cheerleaders participated in the 2025 National Seniors Games in Des Moines, Iowa.

Bill said, "Swimming is my thing!" Swimming certainly was 'his thing' as he earned 4 gold medals. In two events, he set new national records!

50-yard freestyle

50-yard backstroke

100-yard backstroke (set a new national record) 200 -yard backstroke (set a new national record)

There were 12,000+ athletes competing in 26 sporting events.

Bill is a past FCRV National Comptroller from North Carolina.

"Life is good," said Bill.

Schedule/Results

2025 National Senior Games - Swimming - Mens - 50 Free - 95-99

Final - Result	ts		
	Name	State	Time
1st	STIREWALT, Billie	NC	00:01:41.690

Schedule/Results

2025 National Senior Games - Swimming - Mens - 50 Back - 95-99

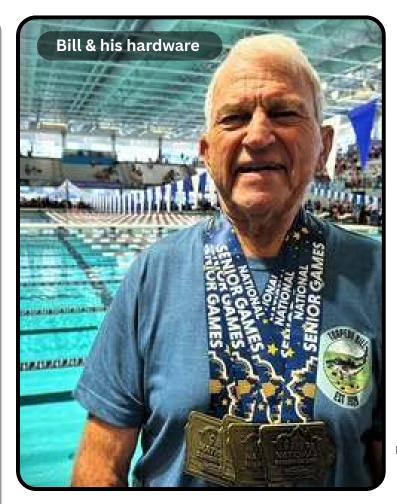
Final - Resu	ults		
	Name	State	Time
1st	STIREWALT, Billie	NC	00:01:19.840
	ule/Results tional Senior Games - Swimming - Mens - 100 Ba	ick - 95-99	

Name State 1st STIREWALT, Billie NC	
tet CTIDENALT DIE	Time
1st STIREWALI, bille NC	00:03:01.660

Schedule/Results

2025 National Senior Games - Swimming - Mens - 200 Back - 95-99

Final - Resu	ults		
	Name	State	Time
1st	STIREWALT, Billie	NC	00:06:46.390







Trip of a Lifetime



Trip of a Lifetime, Not What We Expected By Pat Cohee, Indiana

We planned on a trip that would take us about 68 days. 8 to get to Dawsons Creek BC, 48 days through Canada and Alaska, then about 12 to get home.

The trip started on June 8th. We headed to North Dakota. On our second day we had our first issue. The cord to connect the car's lights to the camper somehow came unconnected and drug on the ground for who knows how long was ruined. We found a Camping World on our way. They would have a replacement, they have everything. Not this time. Luckily, the sales person told us about a small repair shop that might have a replacement. They did and everything was good. We were back on our way.

Got to Jamestown, ND. I was getting a tooth infection and had to get an antibiotic before we got to Canada. I didn't know how insurance would work there. I found an in network walk-in clinic that would see me at 8:00 the next morning. A wonderful doctor gave me enough antibiotics for 10 days just in case I needed that much. Back on the road.

Driving to Saskatoon, SK now. Got to our campground, got out of the camper and the driver side back door had no window. It had shattered somewhere along the road. Good job we weren't in the car there was glass all over the back seat. We were early enough to get it replaced. We called a couple of glass places. They tried to find the window but both said we wouldn't be able to find a window in that part of Canada. They were nice enough to clean up the glass and tape up the window. They did a great job; it lasted for 3 weeks until we could get it replaced in Fairbanks.

Before we got to Dawsons Creek we got a chip and crack in the camper's windshield. We tried one of those window repair kits, it didn't work. Ron found a place that would repair the window. Didn't know you can use packing tape on the inside and outside of the window to help stop a chip or crack from growing.

When we got to Fairbanks, we knew we were getting the window fixed. But, before that we hooked up the water, went to an activity and when we came back water was coming out of the freshwater tank. The water pump had failed. We needed to get it fixed. We found a mobile tech in the campground's brochure. They could come the next day. I took the car to get the window replaced and Ron waited for the tech to come fix the water pump. We were good to go again. What else could go wrong.







Trip of a Lifetime



All was good for a while. Went on some pretty dusty roads. Got a lot of dirt in the camper and had to clean the entire thing, inside cabinets and drawers as well as everything else. No big deal I can clean. I had to do that twice, we went over the same roads again.

About 3 weeks before the end of our trip, more problems. More rough roads. We were driving to Destruction Bay and heard a bang and rocks dragging. Luckily, we were at a pullout. We stopped and got out. The bumper was busted on the ground full of rocks. The tow plate on the car was hanging down on the ground. It was being held on by the safety cables. We, with the help of some fellow campers, cut the bumper off with a razorblade knife, unbolted the safety cables and put the plate in the back of the car. I was going to drive the car while Ron drove the camper, plan in place. A mile down the road buzzers going off, message car is overheating, had to stop on the side of the road this time. No cell signal. We left the car 44 miles from Destruction Bay. We found a wrecker to come from Whitehorse, YT, 250 miles away to come tow the car. We waited 3.5 hours for them to come to the campground (parking lot) to get the keys. Then 2 hours later waved as they passed by on their way back to Whitehorse with our car in tow. This was going to work out, we were going to be in Whitehorse in a week. That would give them time to get the car fixed, and we had a couple options to get it home without flat towing it home. The next day we called about the car. The place it was towed to couldn't fix it, no mechanics. We found a Chevy dealer that could fix the radiator. Needed to get it towed again. The tow truck was coming at noon to tow it down the hill to the dealership. Ron called around 1:00 to see if they got the car. No car, we called the tow company and they delivered it at 12:30.

Called the dealership again, they were going to go look for it and call back. Two hours later they found our car. They looked at it the next day. They could fix the radiator and the condenser coil but there was damage to the frame. They got a body shop to come and look at the car. The estimate to fix it was \$33,000 Canadian, that's about \$22,000 American. The car is totaled.

We figured things out. We could finish the tour. We would have to get rides to places with others in our group. We would need to cancel our plans to stop at Jasper, Banf and Glacier National Park. That was ok, we would just go straight home after. We had a plan, again

Life gets in the way again. I was off taking pictures; Ron was at the camper. I had no service so I left my phone. A call came in from Michigan. It was the hospital; my mom was having a heart attack. I had to get home. New plan, I would fly to Michigan and Ron would drive the camper home. Ron dropped me off at the airport in Smithers BC and left for home the next day. On his way home more problems. One morning the slide would not come in. He called Lippert and they helped him get it in. The next day he had more problems with the slide but again Lippert helped. Last problem, while driving through St Paul construction something hit the passenger side mirror and it was gone. Ron said he then saw several mirrors on the road just ahead.

All in all, it was the trip of a lifetime. Found a lot of great people willing to help people in tough spots. We had some amazing experiences, saw some awesome scenery and took some amazing pictures. Would I do it again?









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:

For other items: https://stores.inksoft.com/marshallcreations16/shop/home

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

Call or text: 410-533-0038 Marshallcreations16@gmail.com



MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FCRV Campvention 2026

Mail checks and completed forms to:

FCRV Campvention 2026

Cheektowaga, NY 14225

137 Crandon Blvd.

FAMILY CAMPERS & RVers 2026 CAMPVENTION

"Where The Flock Gathers" July 5 - 11, 2026

South Dakota State Fairgrounds 1060 3rd Street SW, Huron, SD 57350



For inquiries please call 316-830-2115

Confirmations will be sent via Email.

Please allow a month for processing.

or 701-400-1322.

REGISTRATION:

Welcome to Campvention 2026. 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.

At Gate

**Refund policy: If you are unable to attend, all except \$30 will be refunded AFTER the conclusion of 2026 Campvention.

Registration deadline May 15th - Pay before December 31, 2025, to receive a \$25 discount (\$340.00).

Registration

One Family in the Unit	\$365.00 \$400.00	
Extra Family in the Unit (separate pay)	\$185.00 \$205.00	
Week Drive-in Day Pass (July 5 - 11)	\$200.00 \$215.00	
Drive-in Day Pass (per day)	\$35.00 \$40.00	
Early Bird Days: July 3 and 4 @ \$35/night to 8 p.m., and Sunday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.	(pay upon arrival – cash/check) Th	ne gates will be open Friday at 12 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.
Is this your first Campvention?:	Are you an FCRV Member?:	Member #:
Last Name:	First Name:	Spouse/Guest:
Address:		
City:	State/Province:	Zip Code:
Phone #:	Email:	
NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN YOUR UNIT:		
	outh: 9 – 12 Youth: 5 –	8 Total number of people in Unit:
**Please list the names and ages of all yo		
CAMPVENTION PARKING: (There will be	no special needs sites available at	the gate.)
		arking proof must be presented upon arrival.)
Please note the LENGTH of camping rig be		
The state of the s		-Up Number of slide outs
Electricity: 30 amp50 amp	(50 amp is limited. Hand	
**Bring extension cords. Water available.	Bring hoses and Y connectors.	
CAMPVENTION HELP: Would you like to h	nelp with event(s)? Staff will follow	v up with a contact if yes: Yes No



54th FCRV INTERNATIONAL RETIREE RALLY

Mineola Civic Center

Circle the Wagons in Mineola

1150 N Newsom Street, Mineola, TX 75773 Rally Dates: March 23 – March 29, 2026

Early Days: March 20th - March 22nd

Please complete the following: (Please Print)

Last Name	First	Spou	se/Other
Address	City	St/Pr_	Code
Mailing Address of Other:		# of Ped	ople In Unit
Cell Phone #1	Cell F	hone #2	
Email Address			
Confirmation Send By: Pdf	Word	Mailed:	
Mailing Address If Different Fro	m Above:		
Registering For Camping: Or	GroundsO	ff Grounds C	amp Pass
Is this your first retiree rally? Y	esNo	Are you a veteran?	YesNo
Special Needs: Must have or handicap placard. This area			
REGISTRATION FORMS MUS	T BE RECEIVED BE	FORE MARCH 1, 20	26 DEADLINE.
Registrations received after Ma	arch 1st or registering a	t the gate will incur a	n additional \$35 fee.
Early Days : Early days fee of registration desk.	\$45 per night per unit	will be collected by t	he treasurer at the
Included In The Fee: Full Hoo a lot of fun.	ok-Ups, (30/50 Amp),	Ice Cream Social, 2 [Dinners, Entertainment, and
	ly Registration	At gate	
AND TO DESCRIPT A SECOND STREET, SECOND STREET,	\$350 \$320	\$385 \$355	
		50	
Camp Pass Staying In Unit On	Grounds as 2 nd Famil §110	y In Unit or Staying o	ff grounds:
399 30 FB 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	80		
	CKS PAYABLE TO: F	CRV/NCHA RETIRE	E RALLY
Mail to: Mildred Pauwels, P.	O. Box 193, Dana, N	.C. 28724 <u>NO</u>	CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
Refunds: All but \$35 will be re After the rally deadline of Marc after the rally starts will be made	h 1, 2026, only the car	mping fee will be refu	
•		idea.	FOR REGISTRAR ONLY
I Would Like To Volunteer Fo	<u>r:</u>		REG#CK#
			CASH