

# CAMPING TODAY

THE VOICE OF FAMILY CAMPERS & RVERS

JANUARY 2026 ISSUE

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Printable PDF



@officialfcrv

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

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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](mailto: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](#) - [Event Submit](#)



# 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**





# Important Membership Dues Update



## Important Membership Dues Update

After extensive discussion among the Executive Board and Advisory Council, FCRV has approved an increase in annual dues. For at least the past 15 years, reserve funds have been used to cover annual operating expenses. While this approach allowed us to avoid increasing dues, it is no longer sustainable.

Even with the adjustment, the new dues rate will not fully cover our operating costs. However, increasing dues at this time is essential to keep FCRV financially solvent and able to continue serving its members. **It has been approximately 15 years since the last dues increase**, and we will continue to regularly evaluate dues and expenses going forward.

In addition to this change, we will actively pursue non-dues revenue opportunities to support long-term financial stability. The trustees are working diligently to ensure the organization's future, and we ask for the same level of commitment from our members.

### Effective March 1, 2026:

- Annual dues will be **\$52** (equivalent to **\$1.00 per week**).
- Multiple-year discounts will no longer be offered; however, members may renew for multiple years at the rate of **\$52 per year**.
- Dues payments will be accepted **online only**, as part of a cost-saving and streamlining initiative.
- The six-month free bonus for new members is being discontinued; however, this change does not preclude the development and implementation of new, more tailored incentives or promotional offerings in the future as part of a more strategic and targeted membership approach.

We continue to evaluate every expense carefully. We appreciate your ongoing support, trust your commitment to FCRV, and welcome your input as we move forward together.

**Note:** Current dues rates will remain available for renewal until **February 28, 2026**.





# From The President



Happy New Year everyone! It is my hope that you find the New Year in good health and prosperity. I hope peace and joy is abundant in your life this new year. May blessings be a part of your everyday life.

There is an update for everyone who has signed up for Campvention 2026 as well as for everyone getting ready to sign up. We will all have full hookups in Huron, SD. Consider joining us for a fun time in Huron SD. Site-seeing adventures are being planned. There are many things to do in and around Huron. My thanks go out to everyone who has stepped up to help JeAnne and Sherry, Co-Chairs and Ivalee, Treasurer for Campvention. My thanks to you in advance for everything you are doing. While teams are filling up, there are still a lot of vacancies. If you feel compelled to help reach out and see what you can do. A job I know is needed are volunteers for conductors on the trams supplying transportation on grounds. As always there will be numerous volunteer opportunities on site as well.

We are at the point that it will take more than one region to do Campvention. Every person in FCRV has a talent and is special. I encourage you to step up and put your talent to work. Some of us are still trying to learn what our talent is. Don't be afraid to step up and give it a try. Watch for proposed changes in the future.

The Trustees have accepted the resignation of Tom Martinez as National Wildlife Director. Tom has done a great job, and his talents will be missed. Tom has been asked to remain a part of the Wildlife committee. Tom's input is valued and everything he has done in this position is appreciated. Tom, I will miss you being the Wildlife Director.

We have reached the point as an organization where a dues adjustment is necessary. This decision was reached with much consideration and frankly a lot of sleepless nights. My thanks to the Executive Board and Advisory Council. Your input and dedication are a testament to FCRV. Raising dues is not popular but is necessary to keep the organization solvent. It has been about 15 to 17 years since the last dues adjustment. We all know this is not sustainable for any organization. We will have to evaluate the dues rate and expenses in the future. Effective March 1, 2026, dues will be \$52.00 per year and paying for multiple years at a discount will no longer be available. We will accept renewals for as many years as you want to renew, but they will be \$52.00 per year, so a two-year renewal will be \$104.00, and a three-year renewal will be \$156.00. Also beginning March 1, 2026, we will only accept online payments. This is a cost-cutting and streamlining decision.

I would like to thank Jack Smye, Past President, for being the Chair of the 2025 Nominating Committee. Jack my thanks to you and your team in bringing forth nominations for the Board and the 2026 election. This is a good time to remind you that the election will be electronic, and you will receive your ballot via email. This is also a good time of the year to ensure that you have your correct email on file with the office. It is also time to verify that you do not have FCRV emails blocked or going into your trash.

The countdown to camping starts and is 68 days!  
Your Chair Awaits, See You at the Next Campout  
Gerry Pfirsch  
FCRV International President





# FCRV Trustee Election 2026



## FCRV Trustee Election 2026

### Report of Nominating Committee

*Respectfully submitted by Jack Smye  
Chairman and Past National President*

The nominating committee consisted of FCRV members from across North America including Regional Directors, Provincial/State directors, members at large and one past President. In alphabetical order the members are Lynn Acre, Ken Andrews, Judy Elenburg, Loretta Hebert, Sherry McGuire, Jack Smye, and Patricia Wittmeyer.

We worked diligently for 5 weeks searching out candidates. I am pleased to announce that we have a slate of candidates willing to let their names stand for election to office.

These candidates will each prepare a bio and platform to be published in the February 2026 Issue of Camping Today.

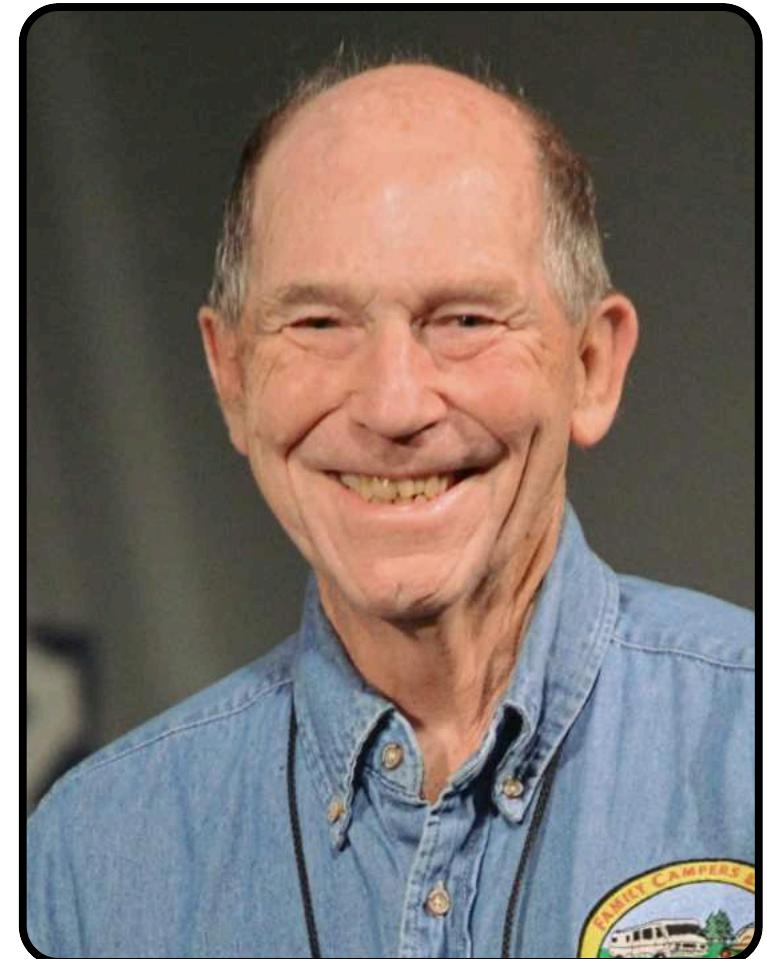
Slate of Candidates are:

National President, Linda Hennie and Shari Weber  
VP Programs, Ed Shaneyfelt (incumbent)  
Recording/correspondence Officer, Teresa Walorski (incumbent),

It is important to vote for your candidate of choice-including those running w/o competition.

You will also have an opportunity to have a write-in ballot for all positions if you so choose. If a write-in candidate wins the election, he or she would be vetted by the nominating committee to ensure the candidate wishes to hold the position and has the skills necessary for the position.

Please vote!





# Hank Nathan International Scholarship 2026



## NCHA/FCRV Hank Nathan International Scholarship 2026 Is Now Open!

Greetings from your Hank Nathan Scholarship Team.

Requests for applications will be posted in the December-April issues of Camping Today. The portal submission closes on May 1.

### How to Apply:

Applications will only be accepted online at the following address: <https://fcrv.org/hank-nathan-ncha-fcrv-scholarship/>. The application MUST include the FCRV member holder's name, membership number, postal mailing address, and most importantly, an email address at which the applicant can be contacted. Pay special attention to the entire website and follow the directions closely.

Section 1. Must be filled out by all applicants.

Section 2. Is only for applicants graduating from high school this year and applying for a scholarship for the first time.

Section 3. Is only for applicants currently enrolled and continuing their college education.

Section 4. Applies to those returning to school for continuing or advanced education.

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Parents, guardians, or applicants must be members of FCRV for 18 full calendar months or longer.
- Applicants must be enrolled, or accepted, into an accredited undergraduate, graduate, or trade school course of study.
- Part-time and trade school students must carry an equivalent of 11 credit hours or less. You will be evaluated accordingly.
- Applicants should have a minimum 2.3 GPA (grade point average) on a 4.0 point scale. All applicants are given equal consideration.
- A current, complete official transcript of grades must display student name, school name, grades, credit hours for each course, and terms in which the courses were taken.

### Recommendations:

Two online recommendations are required and must be from a non-relative. Both may come from any FCRV member including trustees, regional director, state director, or non-elected member. Your second recommendation may come from a school official, coach, band director, club supervisor or an immediate supervisor if you are working. Your application will be complete when all required materials are submitted electronically on or before May 1. Scholarships are for one year. Recipients may reapply each year they meet the eligibility requirements. *\*If you've already submitted four letters of recommendation from 2 previous scholarship applications, those are still on file, and you do not need to submit any additional ones unless you want to include an update to your file.*

### Scholarships

Annual Scholarships are non-competitive. That means there is no competition between applicants. Each applicant's score is individually tallied. A scholarship will be awarded to every applicant who meets the standards determined in advance by our rating scale. Scholarship values will range from \$1,000 to \$4,000+ (American). Scholarship values are determined each year by the controller in collaboration with the Scholarship Board of Directors.

Consideration is taken for GPA (Grade Point Average), maturity, leadership, related activities, and goals of the candidate as based on the objectives of FCRV. Special consideration is given to applicants who major, minor or explore elective classes in fields related to forestry, conservation, wildlife, ecology, or outdoor education training.

The Board of Directors will announce the recipients at or after the Annual General Meeting held at Campvention in Huron, South Dakota. All scholarship recipients will be posted in *Camping Today* so that the members who donate to the scholarship fund can see who is getting an FCRV Scholarship.

Applicants will be notified in writing as to the amount they will receive along with further instructions after May 1st.



## Spread the Word - Online Daily Newspapers

By Daniel Tinter – VP Planning and Development

My Last article about 'Spread the Word' was a summary on how I want to move forward with my 'Spread the Word' campaign. Here I want to give more details on how nonprofits use online daily newspapers to promote their organizations to thousands of communities across the country at no cost.

These online newspapers publish local and surrounding town articles on a daily basis in the form of an email you receive. You tell the newspaper which town you are interested in and each day you receive the email. There is no charge to receive these newspapers because businesses pay to advertise in the newspapers. In addition, you don't have to be a journalist to contribute articles to the paper.

Nonprofits use these online newspapers to promote their organizations by writing press releases and posting local events.

These press releases can then be shared on social media to reach even a broader population. The online newspaper I'm familiar with is Patch.com. They publish local news and events in over 30,000 U.S. communities potentially reaching millions of people everyday!

Here in Connecticut, United Way uses [Patch.com](https://Patch.com) to promote their work. CT FCRV has started to also use Patch.com to promote FCRV's National, Retiree, Regional and State rallies as well as any volunteer work we do.

As I've said many times, the more people that learn about us, the better chance we have to increase membership. For those who want to start receiving the newspaper so you can understand how it works, you must subscribe to the paper. Remember it's free. Go to Patch.com and sign up for the community you're interested in.

For those who want to take a further step and help me broadcast how great FCRV is, contact me at [fcrv.planning.development@gmail.com](mailto:fcrv.planning.development@gmail.com).





# Membership Recruitment Discussion on DISCORD



## Membership Recruitment Discussion on DISCORD

By: John Beck, California, FCRV Member, FFCC Chapter member, FCRV Field Director for FFCC Chapter

We have a new DISCORD channel focused on sharing ideas for how to grow local camper club membership, and I am hoping many of you will participate, share your ideas, what is working, and how we can improve. In your DISCORD app in the FCRV section, scroll to the bottom and find Membership Recruitment, and then within that there are two sub-sections, #rules-read-first and #discussion. In this #discussion section I have posted my ideas and I hope you will post your ideas too.

FCRV Chapters are RV and Camper Clubs. They are people who gather to share in the fun of a weekend campout, a project, a social event, and so many other activities. Our Camper Club here in Northern California began as a brand sponsored group and we had a local RV dealer who would buy your first year's membership when you bought a new trailer. So the club was easy to grow. Today we have to find other ways to help people see us having fun and being an inviting and welcoming group that helps people use their RV's on a regular basis instead of leaving it in storage for most of the year. That's how we have been able to slowly grow our Camper Club here in Northern California. I modeled what I do after what I learned Illinois was doing – thank you Illinois. The more we share our methods that are working, the more ideas we can cultivate and the more new members we can bring to our camper clubs.

So please join us on DISCORD / Membership Recruitment / #discussion and let's do some growing.

Happy Camping!

### Notes From The National Office.

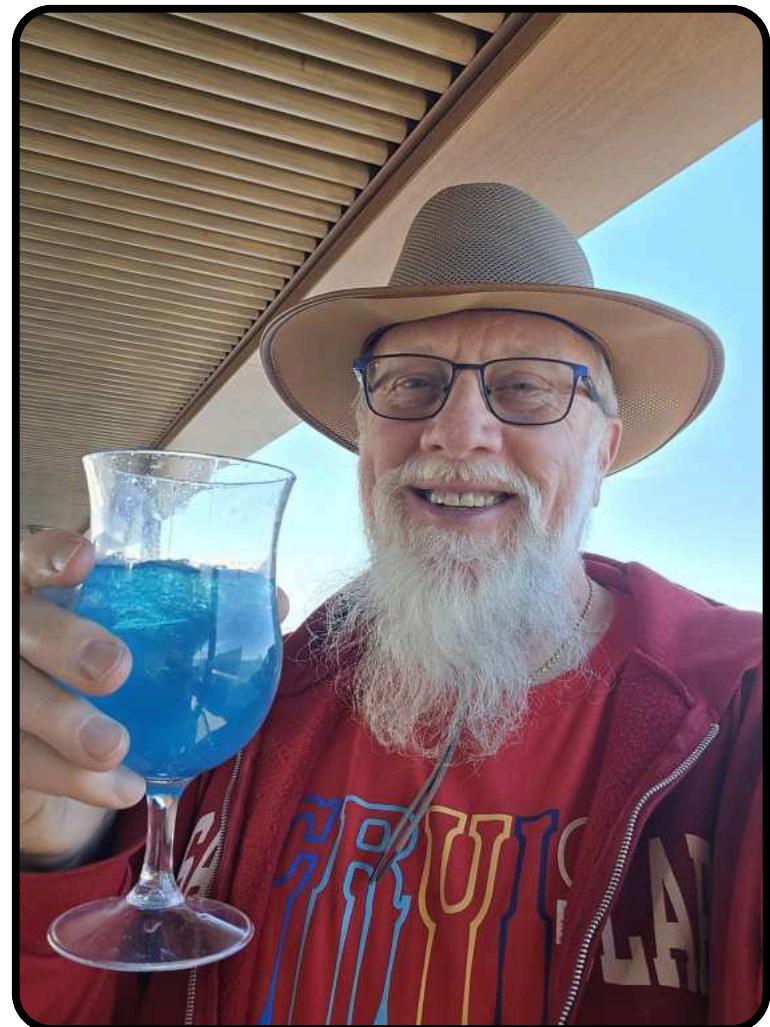
For more information, here is a great video explaining what discord is while showing off its features: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRMD8Iey3ZE>

You can get the discord apps at:

<https://discord.com/>

You can access the FCRV server here:

<https://discord.gg/KjNMve2Rhh>





# A New Year of Hope, Purpose, and Possibility



## A New Year of Hope, Purpose, and Possibility

Respectfully submitted by, Linda English,  
Vice President Operations

As we welcome the New Year, we pause to reflect on our organization with renewed hope and determination. It is a reminder of what brings us together. The past year also reminds us change is necessary and possible when our members come together with compassion, commitment, and a shared sense of purpose.

The New Year brings fresh opportunities and challenges. In the year ahead, we are committed to strengthening our programs, creating partnerships, and looking for new opportunities. This is all possible with your help and the leadership of our executive board and advisory council.

We also recognize that progress requires the commitment of every member. It is the result of collaboration, trust, and shared vision. As we step into this New Year, I invite you to continue to share your thoughts and ideas and support our organization in whatever way you can. Together, we can turn hope into action and challenges into opportunities.

A new year is a reminder that every day offers a chance to make a difference. With gratitude for our achievements and optimism for what lies ahead, we can move forward inspired by the belief that positive change is possible—and that it begins with us.

Looking ahead, the coming year brings new opportunities:

- Expand programs for new and younger families.
- Continue to explore partnerships that align with our organization.
- Be a welcoming community open to new ideas and opportunities.
- Expand conservation and wildlife education through camping and outdoor programs.
- Strengthen our connection to the land and to one another.

None of this is possible without you. I invite you to build hope, create impact, and strengthen our organization by working together as one.

Thank you for your contributions and leadership. Here is to a New Year filled with purpose, progress, and possibility. I wish you and your loved ones a healthy, peaceful, and hope-filled New Year.



# I Love, Love Camping!



## I Love, Love Camping!

By: Sandi Wingert, FCRV Comptroller

I LOVE to camp! It has been a lifelong activity. It started with camping in the back of a station wagon with 3 other siblings when we were very small. Our parents slept in a tent outside.

As I got older and for a very long time, I camped in a tent. Then one spring, my husband Joe and I went camping in a tent, at Mt Rushmore KOA, during our daughter Tiffany's spring break. During that campout, it rained, sleeted and hailed. The hail was so hard it dented the truck and tore holes in the E-Z Up over the picnic table. Joe and I climbed up on top of the picnic table and we were still getting hit with hail. Tiffany was sleeping in the tent and she woke up because the tent was flooded and everything was wet. Afterwards, we agreed, we were done camping in a tent!

We went to a 13' travel trailer, then to a 23' travel trailer, then to a 32' 5th wheel trailer, then to a 40' 5th wheel trailer. Sixteen years ago, we moved into the 32' 5th wheel trailer full time. We eventually sold our house and traded up to a 40 footer.

We spent our summers in Colorado in the mountains and we spent our winters divided between 3 southern states. Those being Arizona, Florida and Texas.

As of today, I would still be living in the 5th wheel trailer full time if I had my druthers. However, we parked the 5th wheel in 2025 on land we own in the mountains of Colorado and it is now our summer home. I settled for a 17' travel trailer to camp in for when we go camping with our FCRV chapter called the Trailblazers. We are still traveling and camping in our little trailer, across the USA, just not full time anymore.

We have met so many people across this country. We have truly met strangers that became acquaintances, and then became friends, and finally they became family.



# Welcome New Members



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

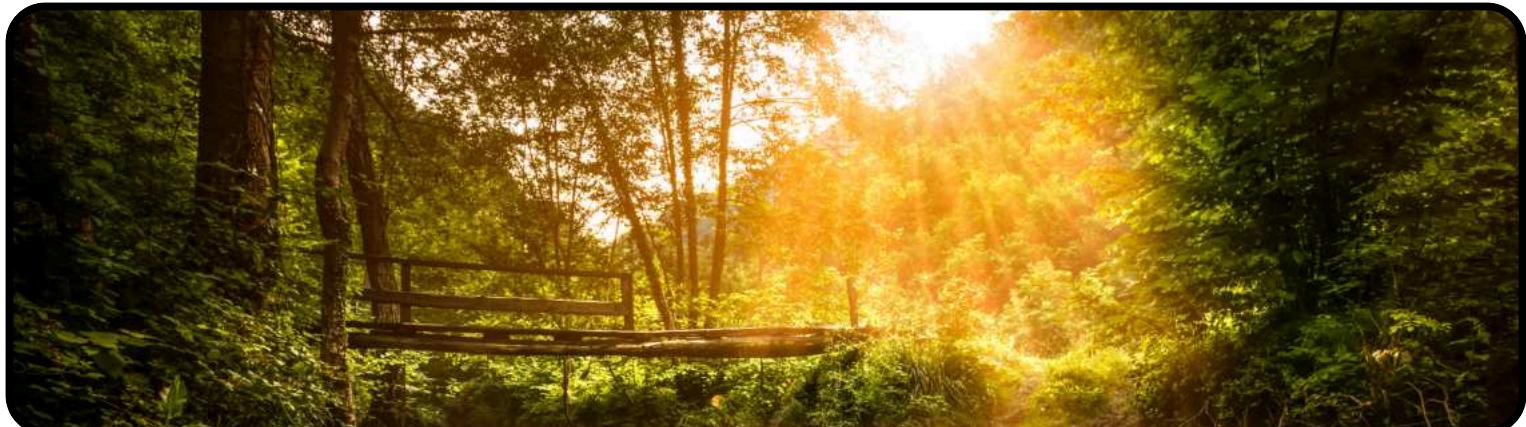
**Wiegner, Steve**   **Wiegner, Susan**   **FL**   **Referred by: Janie hackett**



## 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](#)[Register](#)[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"

The Heartland Region proudly invites you to the 66th Annual FCRV Campvention, to be held at the South Dakota State Fairgrounds in Huron from July 5–11, 2026, with Early Bird days on July 3–4.

Campvention is a time to reconnect with old friends, welcome new ones, and celebrate everything that makes FCRV special. In 2026, we are especially excited to announce a new partnership with the Maga Ta-Hohpi (Huron Wetlands) group, a collaboration that reflects our shared commitment to conservation, education, and stewardship of the natural world. Through this partnership, Campvention 2026 will feature special programs and activities highlighting local wildlife, wetlands preservation, and environmental awareness adding a meaningful and enriching dimension to the Campvention experience for all ages.

Huron and the surrounding area offer a rich blend of cultural heritage, Native American history, pioneer roots, and scenic beauty. The city's story comes to life through its colorful outdoor murals, historic buildings, and museums. Families will find plenty to enjoy, including a water park, walking trails, fishing, paddle boating, swimming, and other recreational opportunities.

Located in east-central South Dakota, Huron also makes an ideal hub for extended travel. Consider arriving early or staying late to explore some of the region's iconic destinations, including Mount Rushmore, the Crazy Horse Memorial, the stunning "Dignity of Earth and Sky" sculpture near Chamberlain, De Smet—home of Laura Ingalls Wilder—and the world-famous Corn Palace in Mitchell. South Dakota offers endless opportunities for discovery.

Heartland Region 3 FCRVers are hard at work planning the Campvention traditions you know and love, along with new adventures and special programming made possible through our local partnerships. We invite you to join us in Huron and experience everything Campvention 2026, South Dakota, and the spirit of FCRV have to offer.



# Retiree Rally 2026 - Mineola, Texas

[More Info](#)[Register](#)

[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: [ken.andrews1348@gmail.com](mailto:ken.andrews1348@gmail.com)

Betty: [UBetUKen2@gmail.com](mailto:UBetUKen2@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you in Mineola, in March of 2026



# Event Schedule & Recaps



[\[Click Here For Full Event Calendar\]](#)

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV  
Published by Forrest Campson · 1 · December 14, 2025 at 10:18 AM · [...](#)

Johnny Woodward ▶ Florida Family Campers(FCRV)  
December 11, 2025 · [...](#)

A few Golden Lakers made it camping this week. Weather was a mixed bag but it is almost winter.

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV  
Published by Forrest Campson · 1 · January 6 at 3:11PM · [...](#)

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV ▶ Family Campers & RVers Public Group  
January 6 at 5:00 AM · [...](#)

Connecticut FCRV held its annual Bluebird Box Maintenance day at the Goshen Fairgrounds. We cleaned and cataloged the activity to determine what birds have used them. [See more](#)



Camping Tips  
and Recipes  
FROM YOU!

# CAMPFIRE KNOW-HOW



Ingredients (flexible)

- 1–1½ lbs browned beef stew meat (or venison)
- Potatoes (cubed)
- Carrots (chunked)
- Onion (rough chopped)
- Garlic (optional)
- Beef broth (or water + bouillon)
- Salt, pepper
- Optional add-ins: celery, parsnips, mushrooms, frozen peas
- Optional flavor boosts: bay leaf, thyme, Worcestershire sauce

Simmer 45–90 minutes over low heat

## Dutch Oven Stew



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>**



# Winter Weather Driving



## Winter Weather Driving

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

The winter months have been upon us since mid November. During the past holiday season various weather conditions may have caught you by surprise. The weather has already set its vengeance on the upper part of the United States and Canada. Along the boundary lines between the two countries there have been heavy snow accumulations. In the far west heavy rain and flooding have occurred. In the upper east ice and snow have taken hold. In the south heavy rains have occurred. In each instance are you properly prepared to drive in all of these conditions? Let's focus mainly on snow conditions this time.

Moving forward each of these driving conditions can, and do, take a toll on your car. So here are some safety tips to make your trips much easier if you just have to go out. Get your car battery tested. A car battery that is weak will die when the temperature drops. Get it checked to make sure it can handle the cold weather. Your cooling system may also need to be checked or topped off. Check your tire pressure; keep your tires inflated to the recommended tire pressure at all times. Check the tread of your tires using a penny. If you see the top of Lincoln's head your tires are badly worn and need to be replaced. Today many drivers use all season tires all year long. They may or may not be adequate for driving in the snow. In some areas snow tires are recommended. For extreme driving conditions, chains may be the better solution. And finally, if the road conditions are that bad, stay put—do not drive at all.

Next: the wiper blades. When was the last time you replaced them? Keep them clean by taking a paper towel and a little bit of window cleaner and wipe down the rubber part of the wiper blade which

makes contact with your windshield.

You may be surprised how much black dirt and grime is removed. You may have to do this twice to get a thorough cleaning job completed. While you are at it, clean the windshield too. Once these tasks are done check your wiper fluid level. Top it off if necessary. A clean windshield and clean wipers will make a great difference in your ability to see clearly as you drive down the road.

Now keep the gas tank filled to at least half a tank. This is especially true for diesel vehicles. This will prevent the gas line from freezing. It will also help if you find yourself driving slower than anticipated during the various driving conditions. As a side note if you have a diesel engine during extreme cold weather plug your vehicle in so that the engine warmer will help you start the vehicle.

Now for some tasks to complete to keep you safe at all times. If your car has cameras, take the time to clean off the lenses. Do the same for your mirrors. You need to be able to see everything adequately when driving. Walk around your vehicle and remove any accumulated dirt and grime that has attached itself to your car or truck. This includes removing the build up of ice and snow from around your tires. Also remove the ice and snow for the car's sensors. This will

help the assisted driving functions to work properly. This is also true for your car's emergency braking system. In extremely cold temperatures let your car warm up a few minutes before attempting your journey. If you are fortunate enough to have a garage, never leave the car running inside. The result of your car running inside a closed space is the production of carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide can seep throughout the house and slowly kill all of the occupants.



# Winter Weather Driving



Thus this is a bad idea even with the garage door open.

Consider putting the following things in your car for winter. A blanket, and some non-perishable snacks. Do you have a window scraper? An extra coat could be useful. Keep in mind that you just might get stranded and have to stay in a rest area before road conditions improve. The better prepared you are for winter driving the safer you may be. Conditions can change quickly and how prepared you are will make all the difference.

Finally, check the weather forecast before you venture out. If the weather sounds iffy, and you must get your errands done, do so quickly and return home and drive according to the road conditions. You may find it safer to stay below the post speed limit to avoid a collision. Remember driving in snow is one thing, driving on ice is totally different. Before you take a long trip when the weather and road conditions may be questionable, consider the following thoughts.

Let someone know your travel plans. What are the road conditions going to be as you travel? No matter in what direction you may travel, that which is occurring in your area may not be what you will find down the road. When do you plan on arriving at your destination? Do you have a cell phone so you can get help if needed? For added security, take along a weather radio. This will give you the weather conditions directly from the National Weather Service. As you travel, stay on the main roads as much as possible. If conditions worsen, get off the road and seek shelter.

Now, as the winter months continue, use the above ideas and suggestions to help as you travel along. Taking a few extra moments to prepare before departing can make a world of difference.

Be safe, think ahead, and be prepared for all kinds of changes as they occur. Drive slowly, be ready for quick changes and if you find yourself in weather conditions that are dangerous, get off the road and seek shelter. A warm night's stay in a motel/hotel may have just saved your life. Think about it. Safe travels everyone.

Source: "The Scoop" Charles County's Senior Center News, January 2026

Information from: [https://nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safe/winter-safety/driving?](https://nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safe/winter-safety/driving?srsltid=AfmBOoriWzrVxXuB9RZEQKCLoeMnk3ayvCkEv1gy9i-4zf2MH98IR8D8)

[srsltid=AfmBOoriWzrVxXuB9RZEQKCLoeMnk3ayvCkEv1gy9i-4zf2MH98IR8D8](https://nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safe/winter-safety/driving?srsltid=AfmBOoriWzrVxXuB9RZEQKCLoeMnk3ayvCkEv1gy9i-4zf2MH98IR8D8)





# Building Community Beyond the Campground



## Ways FCRV Chapters Can Take Inspiration from the Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi Partnership

One of the most useful aspects of the partnership between FCRV and Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi is not any single event or program. It is the mindset behind it. At its core, this partnership shows how local relationships, shared values, and simple ideas can create meaningful engagement without adding complexity or pressure on volunteers.

That same approach can be applied by FCRV chapters anywhere. This is not about copying a program or recreating Maga Ta-Hohpi in another location. It is about borrowing the spirit of collaboration and adapting it to fit local communities, interests, and capacity.

### Start With What Already Exists Nearby

Every chapter is rooted in a place, and nearly every community already has organizations connected to outdoor recreation, conservation, education, or local history. Wildlife refuges, nature preserves, park systems, volunteer trail groups, and historical societies are often natural fits.

Chapters can begin simply by learning what is already happening nearby. Many of these groups welcome community participation and value partnerships that are informal and respectful. The goal is not to arrive with a detailed proposal, but to listen and understand where interests overlap.

### Focus on Shared Experiences, Not Formal Programs

A major strength of the Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi partnership is its emphasis on shared experiences rather than heavy programming. Chapters can take the same approach.

This might mean organizing a group walk at a local preserve, attending a public talk together, or

participating in an existing volunteer day. Nothing new has to be invented for an activity to feel worthwhile. Often, showing up together as a chapter is enough.

These experiences give members something tangible to connect over and help chapters become visible in their communities in a natural, low-key way.

### Keep Participation Optional and Low-Pressure

Not every member will be interested in conservation or education-focused activities, and that is perfectly fine. These efforts are meant to complement camping and social gatherings, not replace them.

Framing activities as optional opportunities helps keep expectations realistic. A brief mention in a newsletter, meeting, or social post is usually sufficient. When participation feels casual, members are more likely to try something new.





# Building Community Beyond the Campground



## Let Members Help Shape the Idea

Many successful chapter activities start with individual member interests. Someone who enjoys birding, hiking, photography, or local history may already have connections to a community group or site.

Rather than assigning formal roles, chapters can support members who are willing to help coordinate a single outing or activity. Personal enthusiasm and existing relationships often lead to the most sustainable and enjoyable efforts.

## Use the Partnership as a Conversation Starter

The FCRV and Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi partnership can also serve as a helpful reference point when chapters talk with local organizations. It signals that FCRV values collaboration and community engagement beyond campground activities.

This does not need to be positioned as a model to replicate, but as an example of how FCRV works alongside partners in a flexible, respectful way.



## Stay Flexible and Share What You Learn

Not every idea needs to become an annual tradition. Some activities will be one-time events or seasonal experiments. Chapters should feel comfortable trying something once and reassessing.

Even informal efforts are worth sharing. A short recap, a few photos, or a brief mention in chapter communications helps spread ideas and encourages other chapters to explore similar opportunities in their own communities.

At its best, camping has always been about more than where we park our rigs. It is about connection to place, people, and the outdoors. By taking inspiration from this partnership, FCRV chapters can deepen those connections in simple, practical ways that fit their members and their communities.





# Iceland Adventures - Fire



## Iceland Adventures - Fire

By Beth Muschinski

Iceland is in one of the most volcanic areas in the world. There are approximately 130 active and inactive volcanoes in Iceland. Volcanoes erupt on average, every 4 years, producing black sand beaches, geothermal energy, lava fields, and stunning landscapes. Being a volcanic island, Iceland has unending heat radiating from below.

While we were there, we had no rain/snow/freezing weather but while doing research I found that the streets are not usually plowed as there is always some residual heat just below the surface. Yes, there are icy patches (doesn't hurt to carry crampons or ice cleats) but they are not prevalent – you Yankees, and us Southerners know about ice on roads and sidewalks. Over 85% of households in Iceland rely on the naturally occurring geothermal heat from the volcanoes. If you are lucky enough to have a hot spring on your private property, you can use it to heat your house, bake in-ground goodies and enjoy a hot shower all thanks to Mother Nature. Geothermal is one of the cleanest and most cost effective forms of energy in existence. Meltwater from the glaciers also provides hydroelectric power. Pipelines from large geothermal areas convey the hot water to nearby towns and other homes. Iceland is one of the least polluted countries in the world.

Way back in 2010, Iceland was on the brink of bankruptcy, but a catastrophic event happened that helped to save Iceland.

In February 2010, unusual seismic activity and other signs of an imminent eruption were registered at the Iceland Meteorological Office. Eyjafjallajokull (ay ya fiat ya yo kyt) was preparing to erupt.

*On March 20, 2010 the volcano erupted, but was a much smaller eruption than expected and not lasting long.*

*On April 14, 2010, Eyjafjallajokull erupted again from the top of the crater and in the center of the glacier, causing the evacuation of 800 people living near the volcano. Due to the glacial involvement causing icy water to come into direct access to the hot magma, this eruption was fierce and ash was thrown several miles into the atmosphere. This volatile eruption caused a halt to air traffic in the Northwest Europe area for 6 days affecting over 20 countries and 10 million travelers. There was another eruption in May 2010 leading to the closure of airspace over much of Europe.*

*Iceland was not a typical tourist destination before 2010, and relied on fishing for the main income. Iceland had a lot to offer the tourism industry but word needed to get out showcasing the stunning beauty of the country, the friendliness of the population and the opportunities available for tourism. Word did get out. By 2017, the total number of tourist arrivals outnumbers the population 7 to 1!*

*Today, there are tours of the volcanoes and sightseeing opportunities of extinct craters. Lake Kerid is one of the most beautiful craters. It is an almost perfectly round, glacial blue/green color. The lake is between 25'-50' deep depending upon the rainfall and lies at the bottom of a 180' deep crater. It was very windy when we were there and I was actually afraid of being pushed off my feet by the wind gusts. More info is available at <https://www.kerid.is>*



# Iceland Adventures - Fire



The seasonality of Iceland has also been addressed. I visited Iceland in February 2025 so my opinions and impressions are only from a winter viewpoint. The sun rose around 9:30am and set around 5:45pm. The weather can go from raging blizzards with high wind (flights cancelled the week before my trip) to sunshine and clear skies to torrential rain (flights cancelled the week after I left). While there, the temps ranged between upper 30's-mid 40's daytime and mid 30's-low 40's at night. The wind is fiercely cold and was never less than 15-20mph causing wind chills in the teens most days. While I was gone, my husband, sitting in WI, had below zero temps and two snowfalls in excess of 6". Go figure!

There is much more information at:  
[www.inspiredbyiceland.is](http://www.inspiredbyiceland.is)





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](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](mailto:Marshallcreations16@gmail.com)



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Anonymous \$68.00  
Anonymous \$100.00  
Anonymous \$100.00  
Anonymous \$25.00

THANK YOU!

2026 Tracker

\$4,343.00  
2026 Total

# Dear FCRV Member

As a Member of Family Campers & RVers, you're part of the history, heart, and heritage of an organization that has shaped family experiences for generations. When you think back on your years with us, certain moments probably rise to the surface: a campfire that kept everyone talking long after sunset, the kind of laughter that only happens among friends who've become family, the pride of watching our youth grow into capable leaders, and maybe even a few harmless pranks that turned into legendary stories. Above all, there's the steady comfort of knowing that wherever you traveled, you belonged to something special.

These moments define FCRV. They're the threads that tie together our chapters, our states, and our families. Your commitment over the years helped build a community rooted in fellowship, outdoor adventure, conservation, and youth development.

Today, we're at an important moment. Our programs, many of which you helped build, still make a meaningful impact. But like many long-standing volunteer organizations, we're facing rising operating costs, an aging membership, and fewer active supporters carrying the day-to-day load.

We are reaching out with respect for you and for the history you helped create. Our goal is straightforward: to protect FCRV's legacy and keep its programs active and available for as long as possible.

Our Wildlife and Scholarship Funds remain well-positioned to serve their missions. The challenge lies with our General Fund, which supports the everyday work that keeps FCRV running. This fund is now at a critically low level. It's not simply lean. It needs attention from those who understand the value of what FCRV provides.

*The General Fund keeps the organization moving. It supports programs, events, communications, and the national structure that holds everything together. It's the quiet backbone of FCRV.*

***Right now, it needs our collective support.***

A gift to FCRV isn't just a contribution. It's a statement that the community you helped build matters. It helps protect the experiences, friendships, and opportunities that shaped so many families, including your own. It ensures the next generation can discover the same sense of belonging and joy that brought all of us together in the first place.

If you're able, a donation of any amount will help strengthen FCRV's foundation and sustain the programs that define who we are. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, your contributions may be tax-deductible. [This link](#) as well as in the back of this 'Camping Today' issue, you'll find a simple donation form.

Thank you for your years of dedication, your membership, and your belief in the values that built this organization. With your support, FCRV can continue to bring families together, encourage conservation and wildlife education, and celebrate the camping lifestyle we all love.

If you prefer, you may also consider including FCRV in your life estate planning. Every form of support helps ensure the organization you helped shape continues to thrive.

Thank you again for all you've given to FCRV and for standing with us as we work to strengthen its future.

## **Family Campers and RVers Donation Form**

Tax ID: 16-0872172  
501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

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### Donor Information

- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Email: \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

An acknowledgement letter will be sent to the above email address

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### Donation Details

#### Donation Amount:

- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
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Payment by Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (made payable to Family Campers & RVers)

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- Please notify: \_\_\_\_\_
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### Acknowledgment

Would you like to be acknowledged in our publications?

- Yes
- No

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your generous support! Your contribution may be tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please retain this form for your records.