

SOI News

A Newsletter for Owners of Scamp Travel Trailers

Spring 1999

A Chance Meeting

Can you imagine my surprise when we (Rod & Sharon Cranson) pulled into Highlands Hammock State Park near Sebring, Florida, to see another Scamp trailer. "Aha" I thought "another buddy is here." Later, when walking over to the restroom, I spotted another Scamp. Wow, am I seeing things, this is the largest number of Scamps I have seen outside the factory lot in Backus, Minnesota. A little later as I biked around the campground I found a third Scamp (it was behind the restroom building), it was beyond belief. There were four Scamps in one park, had I stumbled onto a Scamp Convention?

As soon as our camp was set-up, I walked over to meet the other owners. The first camp I stopped at was Bob & Carolee Anderson from Connecticut. Over the next few days I also met and talked with Raymond and Evelyn Davis (Maryland) and



© K. R. Cranson

The "first" National Meeting of Scamp Owners at Highlands Hammock State Park, Sebring, Florida, January 20, 1999. Left to right: Bill & Shirley Johnson, Raymond & Evelyn Davis, Rod & Sharon Cranson, Bob & Carolee Anderson.

Bill and Shirley Johnson (Ohio). A fascinating aspect of my visits was to see the modifications or additions that each Scamp owner had made to their trailers.

One afternoon, we all gathered at Bob's site for a couple hours to chat about experiences with our Scamp trailers. We talked about many things: their trailers and how they came to own a Scamp, specific trips taken, home towns, and many other topics. One suggestion made during our discussion was the idea of publishing a newsletter for Scamp owners. Rod Cranson agreed to try assembling a few issues of a newsletter to see how much interest there might be for such a publication. Names and addresses of all Scamp

owners known to our group was recorded to form the base for a newsletter mailing list. This issue is the first attempt to gauge the amount of interest Scamp owners will express for such a publication.

In This Issue:

Newsletter for Scamp Owners
The Editor's Desk
Scamp Camps???
Destinations - Crater Lake, Oregon
NPS On The Net
Profile
Book Review
What's New

A Newsletter for Scamp Enthusiasts

People who own or are interested in Scamp Recreation Trailers form a unique group. Since a limited number of Scamps are built each year, compared to the mass produced brands, Scamp owners represent a special group. In selecting a Scamp RV they illustrate a desire for this special

kind of trailer. Can it be that selection of a Scamp Trailer reveals something of their personality? If so, wouldn't it be great to share information and experiences you've had with your Scamp?

This first issue of the *SOI News* has been produced to learn if this hypotheses is correct. It is dedicated to sharing experiences, information, hints/tips, and communication with others of the same mind set. Success or failure of this publication depends on a response from those who are reading this issue. If enough people who own or are interested in Scamp RVs find the idea valuable, subsequent issues will be prepared. Here's some things you can do:

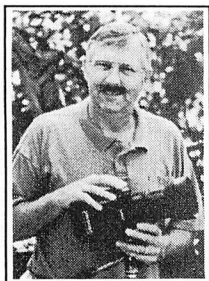
- * Contact the editor with your comments and suggestions for the newsletter.

- * Submit items of interest to other owners - unusual experiences, tips/hints relating to owning or using a Scamp trailer, interesting destinations you have visited with your trailer, etc.

- * Share this issue with another Scamp owner(s) and encourage them to contribute.

The Editor's Desk

The unexpected collection of Scamp trailers that gathered at Highlands Hammock State Park a few miles west



Rod Cranson

of Sebring, Florida was amazing. I could hardly believe my eyes. When we purchased our 5th wheel in April, 1998, I had considered a newsletter for owners to share experiences and information about their rigs. In fact, I had even prepared most of the material for the first issue. Our chance meeting of the Scamps in Florida encouraged me to finish up the work to provide the issue you are now reading.

One idea that could be a regular part of this publication is a message from the President (or another spokesperson) of Scamp, Eveland, Inc. Such a column would provide an opportunity to communicate information about Scamp Trailers to readers of the newsletter. Improvements and innovations being incorporated into new Scamp Trailers could be illustrated along with any comments the President would like to share with his clients. Perhaps it could describe ways that older models could be retrofitted with some of the newer features being built into current models.

This would be an ideal place to share the company's plans for future enhancements to their trailers and even solicit good ideas from owners that represent a wealth of day to day experience with the trailers that Scamp builds.

With a little creative thinking, this column could become a valuable resource in both communication with Scamp owners and obtaining valuable

feed-back from this select group of people.

Scamp Camps???

A number of other organizations offer opportunities to gather in various parts of the country for planned camping and touring activity. Anyone familiar with the Good Sam Club has read about their Samborees, as an example of such a meeting. And, there are many other opportunities to join similar groups in just about any region of the United State you would like to visit. Many of these gatherings attract travelers with a common interest, especially people who have similar recreational vehicles. A quick review of the *Bounder Sounder*, The Official Newsletter of Bounders United, Inc., reveals dozens of such scheduled meeting.

Would Scamp owners be interested in gathering with other Scamp owners to tour a specific area? Please contact the editor with your thoughts and comments if this idea is attractive.

Destinations

Crater Lake National Park, Oregon

Crater Lake, Oregon is not on the way to anywhere in particular. It takes some extra effort to visit this national park about a hundred miles north of the California boarder in south-central Oregon. Even so, the trip is worth the effort. As anyone



© K.R. Cranson

Looking north across Crater Lake featuring Wizard Island, a cinder cone, and Loa Rock, a massive 2000 foot thick lava flow along the north rim.

that has been there will tell you, the effort is well rewarded.

The mountains along the Pacific Northwest of the United States are part of the Cascade Volcanic Mountain Range. The Cascade Volcanic Range extends from British Columbia, Canada, to Mount Lassen in northern California and represents the most active volcanic area in the continuous forty-eight states. Crater Lake is located along the ridge of the Cascade Range - the remains of a large volcano like many other well known peaks.

Geologists used the name Mazama for the volcano that originally stood where Crater Lake is now. Although it is difficult to know Mazama's height for sure, it was likely similar to the larger Cascade peaks we see today - Adams, Hood, Rainier or Shasta. It may have reached as much as 12,000

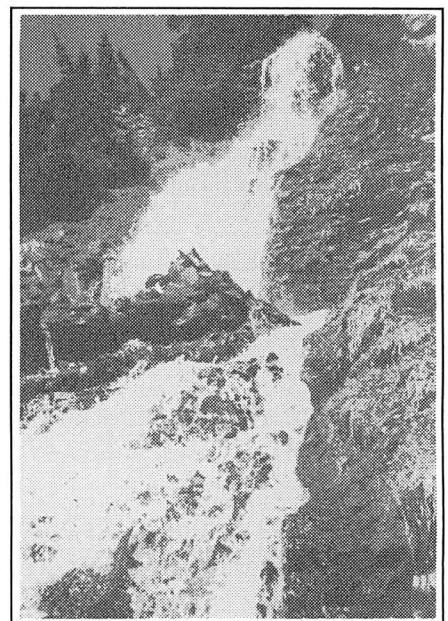
feet. What happened to this great volcano?

Research started at Crater Lake even before it became a National Park in 1903, one of the first National Parks in the United States. Actually, the Native American's in the region recognized that a large mountain existed where Crater Lake is today. A review of their legends refer to this mountain along with Mount Shasta to the south. John Hillman knew little of their ideas when he accidentally happened onto the lake in 1853 while searching for gold.

Modern geological research began shortly thereafter. Early explanations suggested that Mazama exploded and collapsed to produce the caldera (the technical term for the basin) that is now about half filled with water. About the turn of the century, the United States Geological Survey conducted an

extensive study that concluded that most of Mazama's summit collapsed following a major eruption. Two subsequent studies confirmed this conclusion and added important refinements to the story.

Visitors today can share in all the geological history while touring Crater Lake National Park. The Visitor's Center located at the Park Headquarters just a few miles beyond the south entrance is an excellent starting place. Once up on the rim, be sure to stop at the Sinnott Memorial Overlook at Rim Village. The thirty-three mile Rim Drive is another fantastic way to understand the geological history - be sure to stop at the scenic overlooks for the wayside exhibits. If you really wish to get the geological story at Crater Lake, hike the Cleetwood Trail down to the lake (a little over a mile and



Vidae Falls along the south side of the Rim Drive.

© K.R. Cranson

steep!) that starts along Rim Drive on the north side. Once you arrive at the lake, you may board a tour boat to examine the caldera from the inside - including a detailed discussion of how Crater Lake formed. You will likely want to park any large towed RVs prior to starting a drive around Rim Drive.

The only campground, (named Mazama) at Crater Lake National Park is located near the South Entrance Station. It will accommodate smaller RVs, but offers limited services. For additional information you may contact Crater Lake Lodge, the concessionaire in the park, or their web site at: www.crater-lake.com. There is also abundant information on the Crater Lake Web Site at: www.nps.gov/crla

by K R. Cranson

NPS On The Net

If you use the World Wide Web to gather information, there is a site that provides a wealth of information on U.S. National Parks. The National Park Service's Park Net can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/> In addition to providing detailed information on each unit of the National Park System, you can also make campground reservations in certain parks and receive information on volunteer opportunities in some parks. To make an on line reservation, select *Visit Your Parks* after

reaching The National Park Service home page. Then, go to the *Fees and Reservations* area for campground reservation information. Should you desire to use the old fashion method - your telephone - to reserve a campground or cave tour, here are the toll-free numbers:

1-800-365-2267
1-800-436-7275 (Yosemite)
1-800-967-2283 (cave tours)

Some twenty-five parks are currently participating in the reservation system.

Should you desire information on the National Park's Volunteer Program, detailed information can also be obtained from the NPS Park Net site. From the home page, select the *Info Zone* to get access to the volunteer information site. Not only can you see which parks desire what types of volunteers, but you can submit an application directly to the park of interest. In addition, you may access other non-National Park organizations that provide volunteer opportunities.

Profile

Rod & Sharon Cranson

The whole thing started for us when we noticed a Scamp 5th Wheel at the Fontainebleau Campground on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain in Mississippi. It was mid February of 1997 and we were traveling across the gulf states in our small tent camper.

Although I kept a careful eye on the Scamp, the owner never seemed to be around, so I never had the opportunity to talk with him. I was fascinated with the Scamp, however, and it stuck in my mind. Later that spring I noticed a small ad in an RV magazine giving a phone number for Scamp - Eveland Corporation, Inc. in northern Minnesota.

A phone call to the company brought me a colored brochure on Scamp Trailers. A second call set-up a date to visit the factory in Backus MN in September.

Our visit was hosted by Alan Sheley, a Sales Representative, who gave us a complete tour of the scamp factories - both the regular trailers and the 5th wheel facility. After a discussion of options, we placed out order for a 5th wheel Scamp.

Following our visit to Backus, I started working on the tow vehicle. Over the years, I had owned a number of Ford Ranger pickups, so a Ranger was my first choice. My truck was delivered in late January, 1998. It has a 4 liter engine - that has plenty of power to tow the Scamp.

Over the intervening months, there were frequent contacts with the company as we continued to make decisions about options for our trailer. In reality, it was custom built to our specifications.

Pick-up was scheduled for early April - it is still winter in

northern Minnesota at this time. Nevertheless, we decided to return to Lansing via Michigan's northern peninsula. It was a little tricky finding campgrounds that were open, but we managed.

Our 5th wheel is a deluxe model with several add-ons. We elected the smaller table/bed to gain more storage space and the larger (six square foot) refrigerator. We also added several reading lights as well as wiring and outside connections for cable TV and a phone line. Special arrangements were made for the installation of a small microwave that we purchased and sent out to the factory. Finally, we asked for an outside plug near the door and wiring to accommodate speakers for a radio/CD that we added later.

During the summer of 1998, we became acquainted with our Scamp on a number of weekend trips around the state. The first real test occurred in late December when we hooked up our rig and started for Florida, and a three month trip across several southern states.

Living in a Scamp promotes much "togetherness" and a friend told us that if we made it through this trip, anything else would be easy. We made it and enjoyed nearly every minute. The trailer performed very well with few problems.

Although I have many ideas of modifications that would make the Scamp a little more convenient, few have been made so far. Several are on my schedule for this summer as we



© K.R. Cranson

Rod & Sharon Cranson's Scamp 5th Wheel being towed with a Ford Ranger at the Big Mac Bridge (Straits of Mackinac) between the northern and southern peninsulas of Michigan.

travel around Michigan.

Book Review

An Alternative Lifestyle - Living & Traveling Full-Time in a Recreational Vehicle by Ron & Barb Hofmeister, 1993, R 7 B Publications, ISBN 0-9637319-0-4, 255 pages, \$12.95 + shipping. (Ron & Barb Hofmeister, 101 Rainbow Drive #2179, Livingston, TX 77351-9300)

The world of full-timing - living aboard a recreational vehicle - is an adventures and affordable lifestyle. This book discusses the economic and social aspects of the lifestyle that how attracts thousands of retirees." This quote, the epigraph for their book, clearly states the goal of this little volume. And it does so with

considerable detail and useful information.

Ron and Barb Hofmeister began their full-time adventure in March of 1989 and have been doing it since that time. Like many others that have considered such a lifestyle, they had many questions and concerns about how it would all work out. One theme that runs throughout the text is their growing love affair with full-timing. If you would like to hear from a couple committed to this lifestyle, this is a book for you.

Anyone considering living full-time in an RV needs to prepare well ahead of time. This is evident in much of what Ron and Barb present throughout the 14 chapters that makeup their book. Their planning started a year or more prior to their actual departure. Even though a 24-foot class C motor home was

already part of their experience, there were many other details to work on. A review of this planning (Chapter 7, Getting Ready) is full of useful information to potential full-timers. In a similar way, other chapters cover about anything you might want to know concerning living in a recreation vehicle. For example, how do you handle mail, insurance, health care, phones, and all the other day to day items that we usually take for granted?

Another excellent feature is their discussion of campgrounds and campground memberships. Two entire chapters (4 & 5) are dedicated to this topic, but it continually crops up throughout the book. When you think about it, this is most appropriate. Becoming comfortable and knowledgeable about where your "home" is going to be located is a major question for people considering full-timing. Add the many other topics, cost analysis, types of recreational vehicles (and how to choose one), voice mail, vehicle and RV maintenance, newer technical matters (like solar panels), recommended references, and just plain old everyday advice from nearly ten years of full-timing, and you have a great resource in this compact volume.

As a bonus, Ron and Barb have included a number of reprints from their bimonthly newsletter, *Movin' On*. These carefully selected pieces serve nicely to illustrate the items

being discussed in that section. They round out the book with an Appendix of Helpful Addresses and a Glossary of terms related to full-time RVing. An Alternative Lifestyle certainly provided a great introduction to this fascinating way to live. I can hardly wait to get started.

What's New

Lil' Camper - Arctic Products has introduced the Lil' Camper outdoor fireplace. It's designed with numerous features - all with the camper in mind. Its porcelain enamel finish makes it rugged enough to help prevent rust, staining and weather damage. Enjoy its unique cooking grid for Charcoal grilling or remove the grill and burn wood or pressed wood logs for a cozy campfire. When the night is through, remove the protective screen to easily smother your fire with the lid. Finally, when it's time to go, all pieces pack up nearly within the lid and bottom bowl, and lock shut for easy storage and transporting. Contact: Arctic

Product, Inc., (800) 325-8157.

Earth Essentials is a safe, natural alternative, bacteria and enzyme formula that eliminates holding tank problems. Friendly bacteria produce enzymes that break down organic waste. Bacteria is broken down waste as food and absorb odor causing residue. As a result, bacteria multiply creating more enzymes until food/odor source is eliminated. This safe, natural solution produces no toxic chemicals, is safe for the environment and is hundreds of time more powerful than enzymes cleaners. It coats tanks, walls, lines and equipment and extends dumping time, all without pollution. Contact: OUT! International, Inc., (800) 448-8552 or e-mail: out@nch.com

SOI NEWS

Volume 1 Number 1

Published quarterly for Scamp owners (and others with similar recreation vehicles).

Address comments and contributions to:

SOI NEWS

226 Iris Avenue

Lansing, MI 48917

(517) 321-2473

e-mail: rcranson@voyager.net

SOI News
226 Iris Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48917