

SOI News



Fall 2005

Scamp Owners International

Volume VII Number 4



Kevin Johnson with his new 2004 Scamp 5th Wheel at the Scamp factory in Backus, MN. Kevin and Judy drove from their home in Rising Sun, MD in November, 2004. Photograph by K. Johnson

In This Issue

From the Editor's Desk
Far North ScampCamp
SOI Profile
Questions & Answers
Rim to Rim
Leon's Logic

Devils Lake ScampCamp
U.S. Forest Service
SOI Mail Bag
Future ScampCamps
SOI Cartoon
SOI Bird

From the Editor's Desk

What a summer! On our way back to Michigan from a trip to the Grand Canyon, Sharon and I were able to spend a couple days at the Sandhills ScampCamp near Ogallala, Nebraska – it was great fun. Since then a brief report from **Joy Avila** on the ScampCamp in Oregon, relates a great gathering with many small fiberglass trailers. Finally, **Joan Gallmann** and **Alice Verneze** reported on the Devils Lake ScampCamp in Wisconsin. It was still another successful meeting of nearly 80 SOI members. Check out the Devils Lake gathering on page 3.

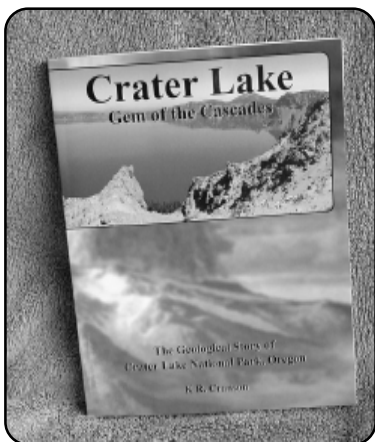
As this issue was being prepared, I learned of another gathering of fiberglass “eggs” at Two Harbors in northern Minnesota. The event was organized by **Judy** and **Ed Meehan**. Ed sent the group photograph of those attending and a short report. It looks like everyone had a good time. This meeting illustrates the creative nature of SOI Members and their willingness to share their time and effort – this is seen over and over again across the country.

With Hurricane Katrina and all the damage to the petroleum production and refinery facilities along the Gulf Coast, the price of fuel has soared. I am wondering what effect this turn of events will have on travel plans for this winter season, especially for SOI Members. While the cost of fuel is a bit scary, we enjoy a benefit that most other RVs do not share. Our small, streamlined, light weight trailers are much more economical than most other RVs. Establishing good driving habits and keeping up to date on maintenance of your trailer can really help. Such simple things as checking tire pressure, keeping your engine tuned, and driving at a moderate speed can pay big dividends at the gas (or diesel) pump.



Rod Cranson
Editor

Checking out of the Grand Canyon at Grand Canyon Village after a 4-day hike across. Read what a walk across this fantastic canyon is like on page 16.



Its done - finally!

Over the past seven winter seasons, Sharon and I have attended every annual ScampCamp in Sebring, Florida. As many of you know, that is where SOI began in January of 1999. This coming winter, however, we have plans to visit the southwest – Arizona, Nevada and, possibly, the Mexican Baja Peninsula. This means that we will miss the Sebring gathering. **Bob** and **Carolee Anderson**, and **Alice** and **Jack Verneze** will be hosting that meeting and have plans well along. If you are going to be in the southeast during this coming February, consider attending ScampCamp 2006. (see page 11).

Some of you may recall that I have been working on a revised edition of a book on the geology of Crater Lake National Park. In it I have incorporated recent geological field studies conducted over the past quarter century. This project has been on my plate for several years, but I am happy to announce that the 3rd Edition of *Crater Lake – Gem of the Cascades* is now finished. Publication was completed the first of October and copies are now available.

This issue completes volume VII of the *SOI News*. It is being mailed to about 450 currently active members across the United States and Canada. As has become the standard practice, I have included an

See Editor on page 11

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Published quarterly for Scamp owners and intended solely for their education, enjoyment and entertainment. Neither SOI or this publication is sponsored or supported by, nor is there any relationship with Scamp Travel Trailers or Eveland, Inc.

Address communications and contributions to

SOI News

226 Iris Avenue, Lansing, MI 48917

517-321-2473

e-mail: rcranson@sbcglobal.net

Devils Lake ScampCamp

Devils Lake State Park
August 15 –18, 2005

We had 46 Scamps and other fiber glass units. The total head count was 87 fun loving Scampers. What a beautiful setting for a Scamp Camp. The Quartzite camping area had hills and valleys. It is exceptionally pretty, with green trees, grassy knolls, and shade galore. The bath-houses were kept very clean and well maintained.

Many arrived on Sunday to get a head start on the activities. By Monday afternoon the place was getting full of Scampers. We had many other campers stop & ask if there was a convention of the little egg campers. They were curious about seeing the inside. We had a Cadet, Trillium, U-Haul, Love Bug and to top off the variety, a Scamp truck camper stopped, for a visit. He had heard we were going to be in the area and he wanted to show off. As many as 12 extra Scamps, came to join us. They hadn't registered but hoped they could join our group. We welcomed them with open arms, and **Larry** (computer geek) **Page** came to the rescue and made some great looking name tags. He also introduced, at one of the get-togethers, a new taste sensation, Chocolate chip cookies with a little tabasco sauce on top. Amazingly it wasn't too bad.

Monday 8-15 This was the first evening of fun – 64 Scampers attended. We had the traditional hot dogs on the grill, provided by the host, **Joan Gallmann**, and **Gloria**, her sister, cooked them to a tee. There was lots of great food provided by the many Scampers that attended. We renewed old friendships and met many new first time participants. Everyone was so nice. **Dick** and **Barb Bell** played some tunes and we introduced



SOI Members gather in great weather at Devils Lake State Park for the traditional group portrait. Photographs by L. & T. Page

ourselves and chatted with as many as we could and got to know one another.

Tuesday 8-16 Many of the Scampers went out to visit many places in the area. The Scampers went into town to enjoy the sights, Circus World, HO-Chunk Casino, and as always, many took a ride to the Super-Wal-Mart. Every day at the Nature Museum, there was a little history lesson or presentation on the area. Some climbed the steep hill for the Slide show on the Ice age and its influence on the terrain. Then, in the evening we had a Chili dump. We had a BIG pot on the fire and the Scampers brought their favorite recipe for Chili and mixed them all together. The flavor was unbelievably good. I saw a few go back three times



Devils Lake ScampCamp participants enjoy an evening of good food, good music and good conversation around the campfire.



Devils Lake sits in a basin surrounded by the Baraboo Quartzite, a resistant Precambrian rock. Much younger Pleistocene glacial deposits are also present along many trails in Devils Lake State Park.

for more and even then we had a lot of leftovers. Others brought many other dishes to pass – we didn't go home hungry. The Bells played more tunes, new and old. The camp fires were great as many Scampers brought a lot of wood. We had

so much that we shared it with many of the other campers when we left. We sang Happy Anniversary to **Augie** and **Sue Birchler** on their 25th wedding anniversary.

Wednesday 8-17 At 9:30 in the morning we had the group picture. Larry (computer and photographer geek) was in charge and found a wonderful spot for the photo. As usual, he printed the pictures, added the names to all the

faces, and distributed them to all the members of the group. He also put them on his web page for anyone to download. At 10 am **Teddy Page** led a Hike around Devils Lake. Also at this time many

attended a Tech Session hosted by **Jack Vernezze** and **Ivan Moore**. Many had questions that were answered to their satisfaction. It continued for 2 hours with everyone happy to share their ideas and solutions to problems. Afterwards they looked through the many folders that Jack had accumulated. Many visited the Scamps to see how others had fixed problems. Again, many of the scampers viewed the slide show on the Ice age and its influence on the terrain.

In the evening we had leftover night. We had hot dogs and Chili and many other great dishes made by all. We had 3 wedding Anniversaries on this day, **Rich** and **Theresa Larson** from Minnesota had their 20th anniversary, **Bob** and **Sandy Peterson** from Wisconsin had their 31th anniversary, and **Frank** and **Pat Glugla** from Wisconsin celebrated their 42nd anniversary. We then mingled around the campfire with as many as we could. **Alice Vernezze** sold many cookbooks to the new members. The weather was unusually nice. The last evening we didn't have to put on our Scamp Sweat shirts. We sat around in shirt sleeves for the "Great Give-away." The donated gifts were fantastic – many were homemade. **Pat Glugla** made some lap blankets, which were quickly snapped up. Others donated handmade gifts and there were so many that no one went away empty handed. Joan donated all remaining prizes to the Sebring, Florida ScampCamp being planned for February. What wonderful people we have in this club.

Thursday 8-18 We woke to a rain storm, but by 10 am it cleared and the sun came out in all its glory. Everyone was talking to their neighbor, doing what we do best – talking about all the fun we were having. A group of 8 went to town to an exhibit of knives and to visit a local Winery. Others just stayed at the camp and



A number of the Devils Lake ScampCamp participants enjoyed the miles of trails around the lake, such as this one, and the forests of the park.

chatted. Then, about 5 pm, the sun left us, the clouds burst and it was raining again. Soon a tornado was sighted, touched down, and scared a few. They went to the bath house for protection. We had planned to go out to eat at the Farm Kitchen Restaurant – we got wet but made it to the restaurant with ease. The meal was wonderful and the company was great. Thirty-nine Scampers joined us at the restaurant. During the meal the sun came out again and the storm was over. We walked out with full bellies and a satisfied grin on our faces. We were glad to have had such a good time, but sad to say goodbye to our SOI friends. We hope to see them all again soon.

Friday 8-19 Its time to part ways and there are many hugs and lots of great memories of the good times. The last evening we stayed up till midnight, knowing that we had to part ways in a short time. Now it's here and as each one leaves we hope to see them soon. We appreciate all the help and wish to thank everyone that assisted with the ScampCamp. No matter how small the contribution, it was greatly appreciated. If we've forgotten anyone, please forgive us. Thank you one and all. **Joan Gallmann** (host) and report by **Alice Vernezze**.

Editors Note: Check out Larry Page's site at www.clubphoto.com to see all the fun and download images

Far North ScampCamp

The 1st Midwest Get-together was held in Two Harbors, Minnesota, August 26-29. We had 36 people with 15 Scamp and two Casita trailers. A delicious pot luck was held on Friday evening followed by a "rig tour" on Saturday a.m. – with a "Bloody Mary" rest stop part way



SOI Members gather at Two Harbors, Minnesota, for a late summer ScampCamp. Photograph by Ed Meehan

through. Everyone enjoyed seeing all the different floor plans and modifications that had been made to the trailers.

Saturday night the group enjoyed a Lakeside bonfire with popcorn, coffee, and lots of good conversation. The event was organized by **Judy** and **Ed Meehan**.

A Midwest rally is planned for next September in Burlington, Iowa, to be hosted by **Doris Lawson** and **Wayne** and **Barbara Collins**. More information later (see page 12).

U.S. Forest Service

One of the federal government's most successful agencies is celebrating a milestone in 2005. The National Forest Service (NFS) is 100 years old. It was created in 1905 by far-sighted men during a period when a conservation philosophy was in full bloom. President Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot were the architects of what was to become a major land management arm of the Department of Agriculture.

Pinchot had worked in Roosevelt's administration since 1898 and became the first Chief of the NFS when it was created. Unlike the National Park Service, which resides in the Department of



This sign in Colorado expresses the mission of the National Forest Service.



This view of Mount St. Helens' crater formed during the 1980 eruption is in the Mount St. Helens National Monument. It is the first national monument administered by the National Forest Service.

the Interior and is charged with preserving areas in an undiminished state, the Forest Service operates under a multiple-use philosophy. This can be stated as “to provide the greatest

amount of good for the greatest amount of people in the long run.”

During the early years in the United States, most of the federally owned land was in what is known as “public domain” with little oversight. This led to both misuse and mismanagement, especially for the huge tracks of land in the western part of the country. On the eve of the end of his presidency, Roosevelt with Pinchot’s assistance, withdrew huge areas from the public domain and placed them in forest reserves.

This was possible because of the Forest Reserve Act, passed by Congress in 1891, that authorized the President to set aside public lands as forest reserves. These became the national forests we have across the country today – the most extensive in the world. Today the NFS manages forests and grasslands that encompass 191 million acres of land, an area equivalent to the size of Texas.

Congress established the National Forest Service in 1905 to provide quality water and timber for the nation. Over the years, the charge of what is expected from the national’s

forests and grasslands has been expanded. In 1960 Congress passed the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act that directed the NFS to give equal consideration to numerous activities, including outdoor recreation. Multiple use means managing resources under the best combination of uses to benefit the American people while ensuring the productivity of the land and protecting the quality of the environment.

National forests are America’s great outdoors that provide opportunities for recreation in open spaces and natural environments. With more and more people living in urban areas, our national forests are becoming more important and valuable. People enjoy a wide variety of activities on national forests, including backpacking in remote, roadless wilderness areas, enjoying the views along a scenic byway, fishing in a great trout stream, or just camping in your Scamp in a scenic area. The job of Forest Service managers is to help people share and enjoy the forest, while conserving the environment for generations yet to come. The Forest Service motto captures the spirit of our mission, “*Caring for the Land and Serving People.*” krc

SOI Profile

Jack and Alice Vernezze

Satellite Beach, Florida

Jack and Alice were born and raised in the same city, Kenosha, Wisconsin, but didn’t know each other. Strange as it seems, although they had never met, Jack went to school with Alice’s older brother and her half brother. In addition, Alice’s mom and her half brother frequented Jack’s restaurant in Kenosha. Also, Alice went to school with Jack’s aunt and his cousin married Alice’s step brother. Jack was never married so his family consisted of a brother, his brother’s 2 children, plus many Aunts,

Uncles, and Cousins.

Jack attended college in Wisconsin and is still always attending school for something – he is a perpetual student with many degrees. He was an accountant and had his own business, but in the late 50s Jack bought a Restaurant-Cocktail Lounge. The restaurant was quite successful, but took a lot of his time, so he gave up the accounting business. In the early 70s Jack moved to Satellite Beach, Florida and bought a home. He worked in the Public Works Department and was promoted to the Building Department. Then, it was back to school to learn everything he could about building codes, was promoted to building official, and became head of the department when his boss retired. Jack continued attending schools to keep up with changes in the building codes. Only 17 hours are needed annually to keep up his accreditation, but Jack puts in about 60 hours every year.

Alice married at a very young age and was a busy mother raising 3 children – perhaps that is why she never met Jack. When her children were in school, Alice went to work in her father's new restaurant. Later, she worked in a grocery store then became a manager in a Deli-Bakery. After 10 years Alice moved to Waupaca, Wisconsin to start a restaurant in the local mall. It was going well, but after 3½ years she had an offer to sell the business. The long hours and the pressure of the business convinced her to sell. She put her house on the market and went to Florida for a vacation. After a month in that paradise, Alice called home to tell her children to take anything they wanted out of the house and give away whatever was left. She remained in Florida, working as a waitress for a few years. After an operation for a back problem, she found a job in the office of a cabinet company. They sent Alice to school and she started

designing kitchens. In 1995, after working there 12 years, Alice retired. Jack worked until 1998. Jack and Alice met through a mutual friend and after dating for 5 years they were married in 1988.

Since both were retired they thought it was time to see this beautiful country, so they planned a trip to California. Finding motels, while traveling across the U.S., was a pain so they decided to buy a small trailer. During a visit in Wisconsin, Jack and Alice mentioned they were looking for a small trailer. They were taken to see a cute little trailer – their introduction to a Scamp. They loved it immediately and found the address to order one. After assisting Alice's daughter to remodel and inspect an older house, they planned to drive to Backus, Minnesota to visit the Scamp factory. Before they could go, however, they found a used 16 ft Scamp for sale – their first Scamp.

Jack and Alice traveled for 6 years with that Scamp, including a 1999 trip to the west coast touring most of the states. They felt a need to enjoy more of the country's beauty, so the following year they spent 4½ months traveling through the western USA, western Canada, and Alaska. Their 2001 trip included eastern Canada, including Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and the coast of Maine. They stayed in



Jack and Alice Vernezze with their 2002 Scamp deluxe. They have been SOI members for many years - note their SOI Number 99. Photography by K R. Cranson

their Scamp over 4 months. Jack and Alice have many favorite spots and think the most beautiful state, in the lower 48, is Utah. British Columbia takes this honor in Canada. They favor Newfoundland for the friendly nature of its people and Alaska is wonderful beyond words.

Jack and Alice sold their 16 foot Scamp to gain a bigger refrigerator and a bunk so the bed didn't need to become a table everyday. It went quickly using internet sites and that left them with no trailer. They tried to find a 5th wheel and learned it was not an easy task. Those they found were already sold or too expensive. Finally, they found one in Minnesota. It wasn't a Deluxe like they wanted, but decided to buy it. A price and pick up date was set. The day they left for Minnesota, Alice was reading the *SOI News*, and there was a Deluxe 5th wheel for sale. After discussing it, they called to see if it was still available. They bought both 5th wheels, as it would be easy to sell one. Jack and Alice visited the deluxe 5th wheel first, located in Michigan, they loved it and made a down payment. Then, they continued on to Minnesota to pick up the standard Scamp.

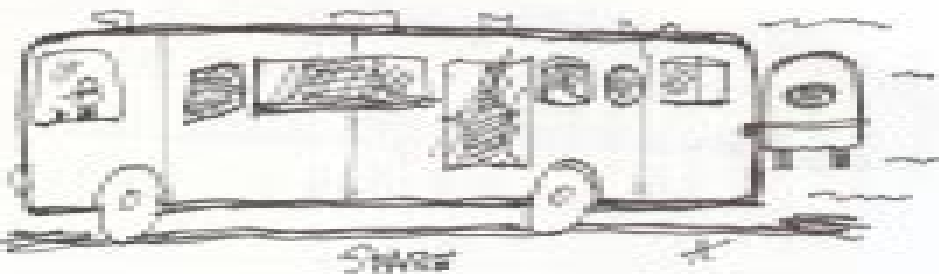
The Minnesota 5th wheel Scamp was left in Wisconsin and Alice put an ad on 2 internet sites. Jack did some work on it before they left to pick-up the deluxe 5th wheel in Michigan and

returned it to Wisconsin. A fellow from Texas called, drove up to Wisconsin, and it was sold just as quickly as their 16 foot. A water leak in the water system was a problem with their "new" Scamp Deluxe. They took it to Backus where the problem was discovered and repaired – a leak in the filler tube.

Jack and Alice loved the deluxe Scamp, even with the leak, and it is heaven now. The refrigerator is the largest one offered and the bunk is a blessing. They keep it simple in the bunk with 2 sleeping bags, for chilly nights, 2 pillows, and sheets if it is warm. No more making a bed every day. Jack bought and installed a Medicine chest in the bathroom. Alice wanted a radio installed in the trailer, so Jack found an under the counter radio, DVD and CD player, plus a TV, all in one. It cost less than a car radio – Jack is quite a good shopper.

Some of their interests are playing cards with friends, our computers, gardening around our Florida home, and they enjoy their pool when it is warm. But, their greatest love is traveling in their 5th wheel Scamp. In 2001 Jack and Alice attended their first ScampCamp at Sebring, Florida. While Jack wanted to go to see what it was like, Alice was not too excited about it, but agreed to go. If she didn't like it, they wouldn't go again. Both of them loved it so much that Alice became a "Worker Bee." Since that first ScampCamp, she has made the name tags for everyone and took over the registration for the Sebring gatherings.

Then, Alice collected recipes from the Scampers across the country, prepared and published a great SOI Cookbook. ScampCamps are the way they keep in touch with all the great Scampers they have met across the U.S. During this year (2005), they attended 4 ScampCamps so far. If you haven't been to one,



Thanks to Gary Adamson

you are missing the greatest time of your life.

Jack and Alice are organizing a trip to Alaska in 2006. Check page 12 for more information .

SOI Mailbag

Oregon ScampCamp - Yes, I am planning on the Oregon gathering.....Ha Ha Ha. I did go and just got back yesterday. We had 93 or was it 96 trailers in attendance, don't remember. It wasn't as overwhelming as I thought it would be. There was something like 12 or 14 different brands of fibreglass trailers. **Joy Avila**, Sonora, California, via E-mail. (This gathering was held at Bullard Beach State Park in Brandon, OR, July 15-17).

European Scamps? - First; thank you for taking the trouble to reply, so many don't. Second; I will phone the owner you gave for the fifth wheel on sale. Third; I will phone Scamp as you suggest. Fourth; I need to verify that the brake system is legal here. I don't think it is, but need to check that. There are some American fifth wheelers here but not many. Criticisms include too large, too wide for our roads, too heavy so needing big towing vehicle which means high fuel costs. Also owners complain of shoddy internal build (construction). Fuel here costs nearly \$7.85 per gallon. So engine power requirement of towing pickup is important. There does not seem to be anyone building these in Europe at all. I think there is a market depending on build (their construction) quality. Thanks and regards. **Doug Rees**, via E-mail.

Great Trip - We had a delightful camping in Big Bend this spring and a hairy trip down an old ore road! Sweet little amps along the Colorado River in Utah - a little Scamp fits perfect. **Bill Dahl & Janice Springer**.

Alaska Report - We traveled to Alaska from Elkhart, Indiana – left May 19, 2001 with our 16-foot Scamp pulled with a '98 Buick La Sabre. We traveled up the Cassier Highway and thoroughly enjoyed our trip. Many bears just sitting along the road staring at us as we were staring at them. Along the way we called Smithers, BC to be sure that gas stations were open as the Buick gets about 285 miles on a full tank of gas. We stayed 29 nights in our trailer and drove over 4,000 miles. The trailer had no problems, but on the way back our car had a BIG problem and we stayed at Jamestown, South Dakota – spent 2 days there and spent 800 dollars on our car. We were glad that it happened on our way home because if it had happened along the Cassier we would still be there. The Cassier Highway has only one gas pump at Bell, BC(?). Alaska is a beautiful state and, should you go, you will never regret the scenery, the wild life, and the towns. **Jan and Bob Rowits**, Elkhart, IN

A Small Gathering – When we arrived at our own ScampCamp in Ogallala, NE, the night before it ended, 13 Scamps had already pulled out. We were disappointed but understand that people had other commitments. In an effort to touch base with a few of those whom we had missed, we camped in Arnold's Park, Iowa, where we were joined by Dave & Kathy Baker, Robert & Jan Kruse, Lyndon & LouAnn Laney and Terry & Malanie Crouch. These folks are all from Iowa and Minnesota so we each had only a short drive. We all toured The Grotto of The Redemption in West Bend, Iowa which covers nearly a square block. A priest spent 52 years building it tiny stone by tiny stone. What an amazing feat it is and well worth seeing! We spent some time sightseeing in the area as well as checking out a couple of an-



Leon's Logic

"Sharing your Scamp experiences is a good thing!"

tique shops and of course restaurants. Seems we all love food. We thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each other, which was easy because the group was so small. That gave us plenty of time for conversation and even some games and a potluck dinner. We came away more convinced than ever that Scamp owners must be the nicest people in the world. **Bernie and Evelyn Stremlau**, Omaha, NE.

Sharing

The *SOI News* depends on information submitted by members of our Scamp Owners group. Articles relating to modifications and changes are the most popular followed by travel experiences and camping tips. Equally important are images to illustrate newsletter articles. If you have an idea that other SOI Members would enjoy reading, please check the enclosed SOI News Contributor's Guidelines.

Tuna Cheese Chowder

Lloy Bishop
Denver, CO

1 T onion, finely chopped
2 T butter or margarine
1 can cheddar cheese soup
½ C milk
1-16 oz. can tomatoes, diced
1-7 oz. can tuna water-pack, flake
1 T parsley, snipped

In saucepan, cook onion in butter until onion is tender but not brown. Add the cheese soup, gradually blend in milk. Add the un-drained tomatoes, and add un-drained tuna, parsley, and pepper. Cover and simmer 10 minutes. (page 37)

Recipe Corner

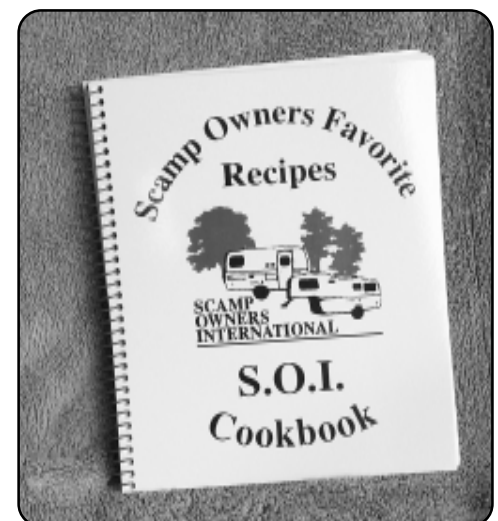
Skillet Spaghetti

Rose Marie Peterson
Huron, SD

½ lb. ground beef
¼ lb. Italian sausage, bulk
1 C water
2 ribs celery, sliced
¼ tsp oregano, dried
1-14½ oz. can stewed tomatoes
1-15 oz. can tomato sauce
1-4 oz. can mushrooms, drain
4 oz. spaghetti, uncooked
Salt and pepper to taste

In a skillet, over medium heat, cook beef and sausage until no longer pink. Drain off the fat. Add the remaining ingredients. Break dry spaghetti into halves or thirds. Bring to a boil reduce heat, cover, and simmer for 14-16 minutes or until spaghetti is tender. Yields 4 to 6 servings. (page 37)

These recipes are from *Scamp Owners Favorite Recipes SOI Cookbook* by Alice Vernezze. This book, along with other SOI items, make great holiday gifts – see enclosed flier.



Editor from page 2

SOI Membership renewal form for 2006, Volume VIII, is in this issue. If you plan to continue your membership, it will greatly facilitate, and reduce my workload, if your renewal is received before December.

Should your winter 2006 plans include travel in Arizona, perhaps our paths will cross – we expect to be near Tucson during most of January. Also, we are still considering a month-long (most likely February) trip into Mexico – down into the Baja Peninsula. If such an adventure appeals to you, let me know.

Rod

Questions & Answers

Hinges - We're the owners of a '72 Boler Scout we purchased nine years ago. I've looked at the crooked door for all those nine years and have finally decided to do something about it. Do you know of any sources for replacement hinges? Scamp and of course Casita are inter-changeable but a used or outside source would be great also. **Rick Myer**, E-mail: rick_myer@sympatico.ca

Light Lens - I'm in need of brake light lens. Can anyone refer me to any place that can provide these round lenses?
Tina Capriotti, E-mail: tcapriot@guidant.co.

Helpful Modification - If you have a water heater, a handy change can be made to assist in draining the water tank. Remove the petcock and replace it with a short (~2-inch) length of galvanized

Renewal Time

It is time to renew your Scamp Owners International membership for 2006 and renewal form is enclosed. If you plan to continue your membership, it will greatly facilitate and reduce the editor's workload if your renewal is received before December. Thanks for your assistance.

pipe and sleeve of the same diameter as the petcock. Screw the sleeve into the pipe and the petcock onto the other end. This assembly is then screwed into the RV's water heater. Use Teflon tape to insure a good seal of the threads. Be careful to examine the space available for the extension so it will not interfere

with the water heater cover. **Robert Kruse**, Princeton, MN submitted this idea from a *Trailer Life* Tech Tip.

Future ScampCamps

ScampCamp 2006 - February 8-11, 2006 (Tues-Fri) at Sebring, Florida is planned for our 8th Annual ScampCamp at Highlands Hammock State Park. More than a hundred SOI Members attended ScampCamp 2005. If you are planning to attend, reservations should be made as soon as possible. To place a reservation, have your credit card ready and call 800-326-3521. Request a campsite number between 71 -138. Once you have a reservation, please contact **Alice Verneze** at ezzeal@bellsouth.net or PH: 321-773-2676. Alice has her registration sheet started and would like to collect the following information: 1) Names of all attending; 2) City & state; 3) Site number; 4) Dates attending; 5) SOI number; 6) size of Scamp or trailer and 7) is a name tag needed?

Southwest Fiberglass Rally - March 30 to April 2, 2006 (Thu-Sun) has been set for the 7th Annual meeting (formally the West Coast ScampCamp).



The SOI Bird says "Got a question, or answer to help another SOI Member?"

It will be held at Terrible's Lakeside Resort in Pahrump, Nevada, midway between Death Valley and Las Vegas. Attractions include a casino with a buffet and restaurant. Outdoor activities include a swimming beach, paddle boats, a pool and Jacuzzi, and fishing. There are paved sites and full hookups. Their dog policy allows two small dogs. You may make individual reservations by calling 888-558-5253. Check out the campground on the Internet at (<http://www.terribleherbst.com/casino/terribleslakesidepahrump/>) For more information, contact **Dennis** and **Teddy Law** at 702-293-7613 or teddylaw@earthlink.net.

2006 Alaska Adventure - June 1 to July 12, 2006. **Jack** and **Alice Verneze** are planning a six week trip to Alaska for next summer. Those interested will meet in North Dakota and spend a few days visiting Teddy Roosevelt and Glacier National Parks before entering Canada. In British Columbia and Alberta, visits are planned for Dinosaur Provincial Park, Lake Louise, Banff Provincial Park, and Jasper Provincial Park. The group will then start up the Alaskan Highway to White Horse and Watson Lake. Once in Alaska, gatherings are planned for Meetings in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Homer, and Tok. SOI members are welcome to tag along. If interested, please contact **Alice Verneze**, E-mail: ezzeal@bellsouth.net or call: 321-773-2676

Iowa ScampCamp - September 25 - 29, 2006 (Mon - Fri) at the Swiss Valley County Park in Dubuque, Iowa. It should be near the height of the fall colors. We have contacted the park and reserved 25 spaces. More can be added if needed. They have electric/water, dump station, showers, flush toilets, and

enclosed pavilion. Dubuque has become a tourist destination point. National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, Arboretum Botanical Gardens, Wineries, Antique Shops, National Farm Toy Museum, Field of Dreams, two Casinos, Dog Track, Hiking/Biking Trails, River Cruises, Lock and Dam, Trolley Tours, John Deere Factory Tours (Construction Equipment), and lots of great restaurants. Hosts: **Wayne** and **Barbara Collins**, and **Doris Lawson**. Interested parties should reply to BarbarasPottery@aol.com. or 563-588-9211

Rim to Rim Continued from page 16

Overlook, 0.8 of a mile down, was just a pleasant stroll downhill through the Kaibab Limestone and Toroweap Formation. Although these uppermost sediments that compose the Grand Canyon bedrock can be seen, they are mostly covered by soil, loose eroded rock debris, and vegetation. Consequently, neither of these are very exciting when descending the trail.

On top of the Coconino Sandstone, however, it is a completely different matter, and an excellent view of the upper portion of Roaring Springs Canyon spreads out below toward Bright Angel Canyon. What a view! Most spectacular here, however, is the near vertical escarpment the Coconino makes on both sides of the canyon. The Coconino cliffs appear to be higher on either side due to the Roaring Spring Fault that has dropped down the middle section, where we were standing. Fracturing and weathering along the fault permits the trail to follow an easy route down through 400 feet of the Coconino Sandstone.

As the trail switchbacks through the Coconino, you soon encounter the contact with the underlying Hemit Shale at about mile 1.7. It might be more accurate to refer

to the Hermit as a formation because it is composed of resistant sandstone layers interspersed with a zone of mudstone. Further on, the contact between the Hermit and the Supai group is less noticeable because they exhibit a similar color. A good marker, however, can often be seen from a distance as the upper portion of the Supai is marked by a substantial cliff known as the Esplanade Sandstone.

At mile 2.7 the trail reaches the Supai Tunnel that was blasted through the Esplanade Sandstone in the 1930s when this part of the trail was constructed. It is a good place to rest a bit. There is drinking water and rather “formal” toilets (outhouses), the last of either you will find for some distance. The Supai Tunnel is also the destination of the mule trip down from the north rim, so there may be competition for space if the “mules are in.” As you continue, it becomes apparent that the inner canyon desert environment begins here.

After passing through the tunnel, Roaring Springs Canyon opens up to a grand vista and you can see much of the North Kaibab Trail all the way to Bright Angel Canyon. Immediately below the east side of the tunnel is a series of steep switchbacks that continue down to the canyon floor where the Redwall Bridge crosses. This is an exciting view and provides a nice overview of what lies ahead for the next few hours.

After descending the Supai switchbacks the trail crosses Roaring Springs Canyon on the Redwall Bridge. This marks the top of the Redwall Limestone at about mile 3.3. The trail ascends a little, then follows a long, gradually descending traverse carved in the cliff face through some 500 feet of the Redwall. From a distance, the Redwall Limestone forms a distinctive red band that follows the contours throughout the Grand Can-

yon. Up close, however, when a fresh surface can be found, it is medium grey color. Fossils may be found in the dense, resistant limestone including brachiopods, crinoids and bryozoans, especially in weathered portions of the rock. This section of the trail concludes as it passes through a notch next to a spire known as “The Needle.”

After a few more switchbacks, the green oasis on the opposite side of the canyon comes into view – Roaring Springs. By now the trail has passed into the Muav Limestone, the uppermost formation of Cambrian age. As you pass the massive amount of water pouring out and down the opposite side of the canyon, the contrast between the desert environment all around and the lushness below the springs is startling. Roaring Springs occurs as groundwater passes through the Mauv Limestone to encounter a non-porous layer at the top of the Bright Angel Shale below. To reach the base of the spring, a short spur trail descends about 100 feet to a cottonwood shaded picnic area where water and a toilet are also available.

By the time you reach Roaring Springs, it becomes abundantly clear that water is not prevalent in the Grand Canyon. Since all the sedimentary rocks above the inner gorge have a gentle slope toward the south, water on the south rim is especially scarce. Consequently, springs and flowing water are more plentiful on the north side of the Colorado River. Water for the densely developed South Rim is supplied from



A view down Roaring Springs Canyon from the Supai Tunnel along the North Kaibab Trail. The Redwall Bridge is in the center of this picture.



Sharon crosses the Redwall Bridge along the North Kaibab Trail in Roaring Springs Canyon.



Roaring Springs produce huge amounts of water that feed Bright Angel Creek as well as providing the water supply for both the North and South Rims.

Roaring Springs – it is piped down Bright Angel Canyon, across the Colorado, and up to Grand Canyon Village. These springs also supply water for the North Rim and the pump house, along with the helicopter pad, can be seen near the Roaring Springs picnic site.

Continuing downslope, the trail joins Bright Angel Canyon as Bright Angel Creek heads for the Colorado River, still some 9 miles away. It also descends into the chocolate colored Tapeats Sandstone (Cambrian age), the lowest sedimentary rock above the Precambrian. There is a major unconformity below the Tapeats and all the rocks below are either igneous or metamorphic. Then, after a short distance, the trail passes into the Dox Sandstone of the Grand Canyon Supergroup. After a gradual descent of about a mile and a half, the North Kaibab Trail enters the Cottonwood Campground nestled along Bright Angel Creek. We arrived about 4 pm and selected a campsite for the evening. Cottonwood offers the basics – a place to lay out sleeping gear, water, and a pit toilet. There is a ranger station, the only NPS presence between the North Rim and Phantom Ranch.



Camping facilities are “first-class” along the trails in the Grand Canyon. This was our bedroom at Cottonwood Campground.

The next morning dawned bright, clear, and warm. This portion of the trail was likely the easiest in some aspects. The drop in elevation was only about 1,500 feet compared to over 4,000 feet on the upper North Kaibab and much of the time we hiked in the shade. On the other hand, several streams flowing into

the Bright Angel Creek from side canyons were flowing full. This resulted in some difficult crossings that would normally be nearly dry later in the summer. In addition, deep in the Precambrian granites and schists, the Bright Angel cut a spectacular canyon known as The Box. Its walls are so sheer that the trail switches back and forth from one side of the stream to the other over a series of bridges. As the trail snakes through The Box down toward the Colorado River, there is little movement of air and when the sun is high, the temperatures soar.

With an early start from Cottonwood Campground, we negotiated The Box and arrived at Phantom Ranch about 11 am. It was a welcome site. We went directly to the Bright Angel Campground and picked out a site for the night. Compared to other camping areas in the canyon, Phantom Ranch seems luxurious! There are all kinds of good things: lemonade, snacks, basic groceries, postcards, postal drop, T-shirts, and other mementos. With advance reservations, both meals and lodging were available. We had made reservations for a steak dinner that evening and breakfast the next morning. Before starting up the Bright Angel Trail the next day, we picked up our reserved lunches for the third leg of our hike.

The afternoon was spent relaxing and attending a program by a National Park Service ranger on California Condors. The huge birds – they have a wing span of about 9 feet – were reintroduced into the Grand Canyon area and now there are over 150 soaring over the canyon. They are often seen along the Rim Trail in Grand Canyon Village. Each condor is tagged with a large number on its wing allowing biologists to track and maintain their history.

We were up early for the 6 am breakfast in the dining room. Our gear was packed and we headed for the Silver Bridge to cross the Colorado River on the Bright Angel Trail. This crossing is one of two, the

Black Bridge upstream carries the South Kaibab Trail, another popular route between the South Rim and Phantom Ranch, across the river. After crossing the bridge, we hiked along the river for over a mile in cool shade. At the River Resthouse the trail turns south into Pipe Creek Canyon. Thankfully, the high rock walls continue to provide shade as the trail gradually ascends along Pipe Creek through Precambrian schists. Soon, Columbine Springs comes into view supporting a lush hanging garden of green plants and flowers.

An old mining drift from the 1890s appears in the western canyon wall across the creek. Nothing of value was ever produced from these mines, it was just a way to gain control of thousands of acres in the canyon. Garden Creek joins Pipe Creek just before the first serious challenge for hikers heading up the Bright Angel Trail. The Devil's Corkscrew, a series of switchbacks, climbs some 200 feet vertically and eventually reaches Garden Creek. This stream flows in a beautiful canyon shaded by cottonwood trees, blooming cacti, and other flowers. The stream and shade makes a great stop for lunch and a rest before heading uphill to Indian Gardens Campground.

A short distance beyond the junction of the Bright Angel Trail with the Tonto Trail, we walked past the Indian Garden corral. It was full of mules. The two groups of riders, some going on to Phantom Ranch and the rest returning to the South Rim, had stopped for lunch. Just before remounting the mules, everyone was "wet down" to help them stay cool for the rest of their ride. The area was busy with hikers coming down, going up, or just resting before continuing on. We found a campsite for the evening, there were only 10. We set up our bedroom and relaxed the rest of the day. It is always exciting to watch the mules and their riders, espe-

cially when they "unload" after being in the saddle for several hours.

As was our practice, we got an early start for the last leg of our Rim to Rim hike. As we left Indian Garden Campground, it was difficult to see our route as the trail climbed up through the rocks of the south rim – some 4,000 feet vertical. The first mile was relatively easy as it ascended gradually to the base of the first set of switchbacks, known as Jacob's Ladder. After climbing this portion of the trail, hikers are rewarded with the Three Mile Resthouse, only 3 miles to the rim! It offers water and shade, along with a mob of hikers. Back on the trail after filling our water bottles, we climbed through the second set of switchbacks. By now, our pace had slowed considerably as the sun is everywhere and shade was scarce along the trail.

The Mile-and-a-Half Resthouse greets us with water and shade. Our friend, who hiked down from Grand Canyon Village, also greets us and offers to carry Sharon's 18 pound pack back up the south rim. We have a little lunch and continue up through the Coconino Sandstone via the third group of switchbacks that brings us up to the Kaibab Limestone, which makes up the South Rim. As we approach the South Rim and the tunnel through the Kaibab Limestone our friend points out the pictographs, thought to be made by the Havasupai. It was just noon as we walked out at the Bright Angel Trail head in Grand Canyon Village.



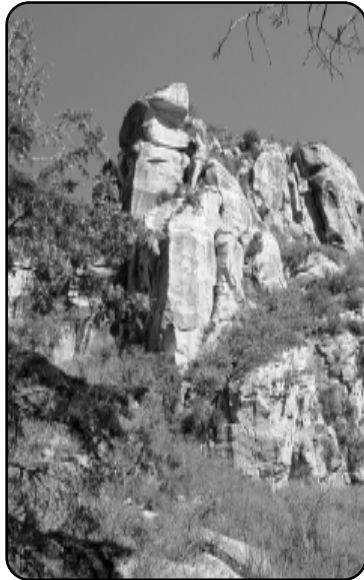
Bright Angel Creek flows through The Box, where a steep, narrow portion of the North Kaibab Trail winds toward the Colorado River.



A mule train with visitors heading down the Bright Angel Trail toward Indian Gardens. Hikers and mules share the same trails.

Rim to Rim

by K R. Cranson



Looking up to the Coconino Sandstone, from below, along the North Kaibab Trail.

Photographs by K R. Cranson

It was in one of my first college courses in geology when I was seriously introduced to the Grand Canyon. The professor said that “Every geologist should hike across the Grand Canyon once!” Of course I had heard about this spectacular place, but had never been there. It was many years later, however, before the opportunity presented itself – August 1988. Now, August is one of the least favorable times to hike in the canyon, but my wife, Sharon, and I collected the required gear and made the necessary arrangements before heading for Arizona. After all, how hard could it be to walk 24 miles, more than half of which is downhill?

Our rather naive plans called for three-days and two-nights below the rim. About 6 am, with our back country campground permit fastened to my backpack, we started down the North Kaibab Trail. Our destination was the Bright Angel Campground at Phantom Ranch – some 14 miles away on the Colorado River. That turned out to be a very long day and a rude introduction to hiking in the Grand Canyon. The following two days hiking up the Bright Angel Trail to Grand Canyon Village,

only about 9 miles, was also a valuable learning experience. So, this first encounter provided much background for our planned Rim to Rim Hike in May, 2005.

We arrived at the North Rim Campground of the Grand Canyon on May 20th, 2005, only a few days after it opened. The past winter had produced an unusual amount of snow and some of the meadows between Jacobs Lake and the park entrance were still buried. Fortunately, all campsites were clear of snow so we could use ours to prepare for the hike. We inspected our gear, food supplies and water one last time, then it was “show time!”

The North Kaibab Trail head is just a short walk from the campground, so we didn’t have to leave our Scamp and Dakota in the crowded trailhead parking area. It was about 7 am when we started down the North Kaibab, about an hour later than our planned departure time. The weather had been beautiful for the two days since arriving at the North Rim and it promised to continue for our 4 day and 3 night crossing. This time we planned for an extra day with a back country reservation at Cottonwood Campground – about half way to Phantom Ranch.

At over 9,000 feet the North Rim tends to be cool, especially during the morning hours. So our arrival at the Coconino

Continued on page 12