

# SOI

## News



Summer 2005

Scamp Owners International

Volume VII Number 3



*Boler and Big Brother – Dale Sharp's 1966 (?) Boler and his motorhome are buried in a Toledo, Ohio snow storm. Photograph by D. Sharp*

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## From the Editor's Desk

If you think this issue is a bit late – you are right! It has been a very busy spring and summer for us and everything has been pushed back a little. I will try to do better with the fall issue.



**Rod Cranson**  
Editor

Checking out some of the history and rocks at the Soo Locks along the St. Marys River in northern Michigan.

This past May Sharon and I planned a trip with another couple to hike across the Grand Canyon, the so-called Rim to Rim trail. We took the Scamp so we could visit some of the national parks along the way – Colorado National Monument, Bryce Canyon, and Zion. That part of the trip was great. I especially enjoyed the fantastic scenery (and geology) along the stretch of I-70 through eastern Utah. That region is what geologists call “standing-up geology!”

We arrived at the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park in beautiful sunny weather, but the meadows were still covered with snow. The road had opened less than a week earlier. We drove around to the South Rim to pick up our friends and returned to start the hike down the North Kabab Trail. Our plan was to spend four days with three nights camping in the canyon. Although it is only about 24-miles across on the trails, it was still an exhausting hike for us and we were happy to walk out at Grand Canyon Village about noon on the 4th Day.

On our return trip, we stopped for a day at the Sandhills ScampCamp near Ogallala, Nebraska. **Bernie** and **Evelyn Stremmlau** did a wonderful job of selecting and planning this gathering in this remote part of the country. A se-

rious ‘glitch’ developed when Bernie became ill and ended up in the hospital (see page 6), but several SOI members attending, stepped in and the event went off just as scheduled. It was great to see many old friends, and of course, we made several new ones also. Thanks to everyone who helped – check out the report by Alice Vernezze and Evelyn Stremmlau on page 3.

Back home, the final sprint was on to complete a book I have been working on for several years. It deals with the geology of Crater Lake National Park in south central Oregon. I had hoped to have it ready for the 2005 season at Crater Lake, but that didn’t quite happen. It replaces the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition that has been out-of-print for several years and was way out-of-date. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition is at the printer as I write this column and should be done by late August, so *Crater Lake – Gem of the Cascades* will be ready for visitors in the park for the 2006 season.

We are making plans for the 2006 winter season and hope to spend some time in Arizona, and maybe, the Baja of Mexico. If anyone is interested in a drive down the Baja, maybe we could get a Scamp caravan together for a few weeks. Our tentative plans are to spend most of January in southern Arizona and drive down the Baja

see **Editor** on page 13

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# West Coast ScampCamp

We had 16 trailers with 30 people. I found we couldn't fill our sites with just Scamps so we went on to the Casita and Fiberglass websites. We even had a Boler (Lance and Mary MacArthur).

The Sixth Annual West Coast Scamp Camp (and other Fiberglass) took place March 24 through March 27, 2005. We got together at Terrible's Lakeside Casino and RV Park in Pahrump, NV and had a wonderful time. We made new friends and got caught up with old friends. Once again, Joy Avila took the group photo. She brought her "Golf Game" and we honed our skills before we challenged one another. Pat and Arleen Heimann brought a few of their collection of telescopes and we were able to see Saturn in spite of the full moon and scattered clouds. Before, during and after our get together, several attendees made the trip to Death Valley to see the once in a lifetime display of wild flowers. It was well worth the trip.



Participants of the West Coast ScampCamp gather for a group photo. Photograph by J. Avila

The West Coast ScampCamp will become the Southwest Fiberglass Rally in 2006. The dates are March 30, 31 and April 1 and 2. Contact Dennis and Teddy Law at 702-293-7613 or teddylaw@earthlink.net. (see page 13)

# Sandhills ScampCamp

by Alice Vernezze  
and Evelyn Stremlau

Sunday, June 5 We arrived on a bright sunny day. For our whole 1,804 mile trip it was raining. It followed us all the way from Florida to Nebraska. We pulled into Ogallala about 9:00 am. We followed the winding dirt road and wondered if we were lost. But soon we saw the sign for Eagle Canyon. We knew we were headed the right way.

Julie & Jimmy greeted us. They are the managers of this hideaway and made you feel like family. They even joined us a few times, for the campfire chats. The Office/Store/Restaurant had anything you could want in case of an emergency, plus some very neat gift ideas. You felt welcome anytime you entered the office and they trusted you as you pay when you leave.

Sadly, after 1-1/2 years of planning this ScampCamp, **Evelyn** and **Bernie Stremlau**, our hosts, couldn't attend. Bernie had medical problems and Evelyn, being the concerned wife was at his side. **Barb** and **Arlan Hogsett** took charge



Sandhills ScampCamp participants gather on the porch for the traditional group photograph. Photograph by K R. Cranson



*First Potluck - Everyone gathered in the recreation building to enjoy a great meal and entertainment.  
Photograph by K R. Cranson*

of greeting participants and notified them about planned activities and news of Bernie's progress each day. **Dianne Lattimer** assisted Barb in some of the chores. Happily, Bernie and Evelyn were able to attend the

camp on Thursday evening and Friday all day. The doctor gave his okay to Bernie's request to attend and we were all happy to see them.

Monday, June 6 was the first official day and we had an "Introduce Yourself" with a Cowboy meal in the meeting room. Everyone brought a dish to pass and Bernie and Evelyn furnished the GIANT SIZE Beef Sausages, beans and thick slices of bread. We all enjoyed meeting our new and old Scamper friends. **Rose Marie Petersen** said the prayer before the meal. A fun prize drawing followed and later we were entertained by **Don Lattimer** (on the guitar) and Rose Marie Petersen played her keyboard.

Tuesday, June 7 We gathered for the group photograph. All attended. Even **Charles Leonard**. This was a fellow that the Petersons had met on the road, and being as he owned a Scamp, they invited him to join our group. He got confused on the directions but Rod Cranson found him in town and he followed Rod to the park. After the picture, we toured the Scamp trailers. It gave us a chance to show off our additions and innovations.

At 1 pm the men and a few ladies attended a Tech meeting hosted by **Jack Vernezze**. Jack took over for Bernie when he couldn't attend. All came away very satisfied they had most of their problems solved. Jack has quite a collection of information about Scamp trailers. There were 4 single ladies that attended this ScampCamp and they wanted to learn.

The other ladies attended a Craft Session, co-hosted by Barb Hogsett and Dianne Lattimer. We filled bottles with trinkets that reminded us of the stories of our lives. We filled the bottles with rice and then shook them and whatever appeared triggered a story of their past.

**Lynda Freed** put on a rug crocheting demonstration. She has many rugs made out of Wal-Mart bags and displayed all the different items she has made. One was a hat, what a great idea. Many were interested and are starting their own



*Sandhills ScampCamp - SOI Scamps occupied almost all the sites at the Eagle Canyon Hideaway along Lake McConaughy near Ogallala, Nebraska. Photograph by G. Peterson*

project. We also had a recipe exchange chaired by Lynda. Her husband, **Dick Freed**, printed up a booklet and added some pictures with a few great comments for humor.

In the evening we sat around the "Friendship Fire" and listened to the music by Don Lattimer and Dick Freed. Joining into the fun was **Wayne Collins** and **Ron Bartels** with their Harmonica's.

Wednesday, June 8 We drove to the Haythorn Ranch and were greeted at the door by the owner and the wife of the man that runs the ranch part of this operation. They had a special treat for us. They took us out on the range to watch the branding of the calves. The pen was full of calves and some of the mother cows. The cowboys roped the calves, they were branded, inoculated, and the bulls were castrated. Very interesting to see.

A Chuck Wagon style meal was served at the office/dinning room/gift shop/center. The food was wonderful. They showed us a movie on the history of the ranch that related how the operation has been handed down for 5 generations.

Craig Haythorn and his wife Jodi graciously welcomed us to view their home. The history of the whole family was on the walls and they shared it with us. They lead a simple life and have very basic ideals, but their home was large and very well decorated with numerous antiques. The down home feeling was evident in every room.

They still do the chores the old fashion way, by saddling up the horses and branding the cattle on the range. This is a family operation and some of the cow hands bring their children to help with the chores. Simple beliefs and respect for family values were evident. Every child said "yes sir" and "yes man" and "thanked you" for giving them a compliment. Sadly this is missing from our modern lives.

In the evening we had a get together at the restaurant. One of the Scampers, **Ann Curtice**, had a birthday and her husband **Pete** mentioned it to the park managers, Julie & Jimmy Baker. They went to town and bought a BIG Chocolate Decorated Cake and Ice Cream, for a surprise party for Ann. We spread the word to all the Scampers, to keep it quiet but come up to the restaurant at 7:00 pm for cake and ice cream.

Ann was sitting on the porch by the office/restaurant, waiting on her laundry. When everyone arrived she was in the wash room. We got everyone inside and waited for Ann to come in. When she arrived everyone shouted Happy Birthday.



*Branding Time* - A visit to the Haythorn Ranch to watch calf branding and enjoy a chuck wagon lunch was a special treat.

Photograph by G. Peterson



*Classic Combo* - Bill Carey of North Platte stops by the Sandhills ScampCamp to show off his rebuilt 1974 Eco and '58 Ford pickup tow truck.

Photograph by G. Peterson



*Campfire Entertainment - Don Lattimer with a local friend play and sing at one of the evening gatherings.*

She was so surprised and happy that her new found friends would help her celebrate.

While I was going around to notify everyone of the party, I learned that **Rollie** and **Darleen Donovan** were also celebrating their 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on the same day. Then, the following day was **Kathy Baker's** birthday.

We congratulated all and wished them all much happiness.

Thursday, June 9 Nineteen of us went to lunch at "Ole's Big Game Steakhouse." We car pooled for the drive to the small town of Paxton to enjoy a meal fit for a group of hungry campers. One brave table ordered "Rocky Mountain Oysters" for their appetizer, and all six partook of the treat. So the others (not so brave) had "Fried Tangy Dill Pickles" as their appetizer.

There were trophy animals every where in the restaurant – deer, antelope, giraffe, bear, elephant, and even a giant white polar bear in a glass showcase. Thank goodness it wasn't alive. There was a large set of tusks framing the table of the brave souls that ate the Rocky Mountain Oysters. Many other trophy animals I didn't recognize. A good meal was had by all, the food was plentiful and very tasty.

In the evening we had a big surprise. Evelyn and Bernie, our hosts, arrived to spend some time with us. The doctor knew how much Bernie wanted to be at the ScampCamp that they had planned, so he gave his okay. Bernie had to take it easy, but Evelyn joined us at the "Friendship Fire." This night we told stories of our adventures on the road and had many laughs around

the fire. We lost track of time and stayed up very late.

Friday, June 10 Evelyn greeted all the Scampers and made them feel special. They apologized for having missed all the activities, but it was so well organized that everything ran smoothly. In the evening we had our final meal together, a pot luck in the meeting room. We were entertained by Evelyn and Bernie's good friend, **Dick Sladky**. He sang many songs and had the group sing along with him – he was great and we were all bewitched by his talent.

Saturday, June 11 Our fellow Scampers were packing up and getting ready to get back on the road. We hugged and shook hands with all of them and said our goodbyes. What a wonderful group. We met a few old friends and many new Scampers, and all touched us in a special way. We look forward to the next campout so we can enjoy their company again.

So all in all a great time was had by everyone. We will all look at Nebraska a lot differently, now. We learned it is a wonderful place to camp, especially the Eagle Canyon Campground. Nebraska has great fishing and many sights to see.

Later, we went to Omaha and spent a few days with Bernie and Evelyn. They showed us the town. One of the sights was "Boys Town," now known as "Girls & Boys Town." What a wonderful man Father Flannigan was, to have started this facility and stuck to it even when the job was impossible. God Bless Him.

Our thanks to Bernie and Evelyn Stremlau for doing such a wonderful job in organizing this ScampCamp. We Had Fun!

## **A Note from The Stremlaus**

Greetings Fellow Scampers. What an odd twist of fate has brought you together here at Eagle Canyon without us. After planning this for a year and a half and being as excited as little children to introduce you to

Nebraska and tell you why we love it here so much, you can only imagine our disappointment at not being able to be there.

Bernie has been ill since May 11 and on May 29 was admitted to Veterans' Hospital with renal failure. He has undergone numerous tests and scans and as yet we have not been able to isolate what is causing the problem. On June 13 he will have a kidney biopsy which hopefully will give us the answer as to what kind of bug has taken up residence there so it can be attacked.

My assumption was once in the hospital, Bernie would get better each day and that even if he wasn't able to come, I would come by myself leaving him in the able hands of his children. The Scamp was totally packed except for the perishable food and I was ready, but now that is not advisable. Our sincere thanks to Barb and Arlan who, without hesitation when asked, said they could take over hosting for us. They must be angles God has put in our path – He always does that you know. We will somehow get the supplies to them and they will carry on and do a great job.

. . . . .

Mainly, we hope you will just be able to enjoy the beauty of the rolling sand hills, the wide-open spaces, and the clean air. Take lots of pictures, think of us often and keep Bernie in your prayers. I will post an E-mail letting you know when he is up and running once again. Please accept our sincere apology.

Evelyn and Bernie

*Editor Note: This note was read by Don Pinnick at the first evening's gathering at the Nebraska Sandhills ScampCamp.*

**“Adventure is the result of poor planning”**  
- Colonel Blatchford Snell

## Arizona Surprise

Steve and Mary Blasko

After leaving Sebring, Florida and ScampCamp 2005, we traveled west – destination Arizona. Along the way we toured the state Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas. For the most part we stayed at KOA's. Our first stop in Arizona was the town of Tombstone.

During our stay in Arizona we toured both sections of Saguaro National Park where many desert cactus were in bloom. We stayed at a private RV park in Tucson for several days while waiting out the rain conditions in the central and northern part of the state. To provide an idea of the contrast, we were swimming in an outdoor pool at the RV park and it was sunny and warm. Not bad, we thought and the next day we were off to the KOA in Williams. On the way we passed a sign along side the road that read 7,343 feet above sea level. No prob-lem-o!

We arrived at the KOA amid snow flurries and unhitched the Scamp. The Scamp heater worked splendidly. The next morning we were up and about early and the weather looked promising. We traveled north about 50 miles to the southern rim of Grand Canyon National Park where there were patches of snow on the ground in shaded areas. The weather was still sunny with a steady breeze, but it was cold.

The views of the Grand Canyon were spectacular – the colors seemed to change with the change in sunlight. We spent the whole day touring the area and had an early dinner in Grand Canyon Village. On the way back to the KOA, we



*Steve and Mary at the Grand Canyon - note the winter coats! Photographs by S. & M. Blasko*



*Surprise - This is the scene that Steve and Mary found early in the morning.*

stopped at the IMAX theater to see the Grand Canyon movie. Then we stopped in downtown Williams for an ice cream treat. It didn't last too long because outside a snow blizzard swooped down just like turning on a light switch.

We left the ice cream parlor and traveled the three miles back to the KOA in near whiteout conditions. Back in

our Scamp we were snug and warm. It was already night time. The next morning we were greeted with our Arizona surprise. We could not open the Scamp door to go outside – apparently ice had formed on the outside that froze it closed. Mary had a solution, she used her hair dryer to thaw the door sides free from ice. What excitement!

## Scamp Humor

**More Humor** – Belatedly catching up on my reading of the Fall 2004 issue, I was especially interested in JoAn's Humor column. May I suggest that you have a regular column of interesting/humorous comments/experiences that we Scamp owners have had, and extend an invitation for contributions?

Here's one of ours that we can remember. We regularly use our 13-foot Scamp as an "overflow bedroom" in the parking lot at our summer cottage in Door County, Wisconsin. That is, we sleep in it while our kids and grandkids enjoy our small, 65-year-old cottage. We occasionally use two-way radios to communicate between the two across the 150-foot distance, especially on rising in the morning. Last summer our son, to alert us that his fam-

ily was up and ready to receive the grandparents, radioed us, "Mother Goose to goose egg..." **Roger and Emily Brooks** Milwaukee, WI

*Editor's Note: Attention all SOI members! Do you have a humorous story to contribute and help out with Roger and Emily's suggestion for a regular humor column?*

## SOI Profile

### Bill and Shirley Johnson Waverly, OH

Bill and Shirley's 16-foot Scamp is almost ten years old and has been well used over that time. They have traveled widely across the country and have visited all 50



*Bill and Shirley with their 16-foot Scamp at ScampCamp 2005 in Sebring, Florida.*

*Photograph by K R. Cranson*

states, many with their Scamp. In addition, they have visited 26 other countries. Much of their travel has involved stays at Elder-Hostels and they have visited 21 across the United States and around the world.

Both of the Johnson's are retired. Bill served as a Presbyterian Minister at several churches across Ohio while Shirley was a pastor's wife and homemaker. Both have advanced degrees; Bill has a Doctor of Philosophy and Shirley earned a Masters of Arts. Since retirement they have pursued their many interests. Shirley enjoys gardening, reading and hiking. Model railroads,



*The SOI Bird says "Let's hear about some of the funny things that have happened to you while 'Scamping!'"*



computers, woodworking and flying fill Bill's time. Bill is a pilot and has flown over much of the U.S.

Bill and Shirley have been members of Scamp Owners International since the very first meeting. They were present at the January 1999 chance meeting of four Scamp owners in Highlands Hammock State Park at Sebring, Florida.

The Johnson's have 4 children, 11 grandchildren and a great grandchild.

## SOI Mail Bag

**New Scamp** – We enjoy traveling and camping and are looking forward to our Scamp and the potential of joining some of the future scheduled SOI camping joint ventures. **Franklin and Sally Boulineau**, Hephzibah, GA.

**New Member** – I want to thank you for sending me the winter and spring 2005 editions of *SOI News* plus the *2005 SOI Membership Directory*. I just want to mention that the listing in the directory has my zip code as 07107 and it should be 04107 . . . As a new member of the organization I am sure to learn a great deal from the members who obviously have a tremendous amount of experience and seem willing to share. I have never towed anything behind a vehicle in the 45+ years of driving, so I have a great deal to learn. I purchased the 2005, 13-foot Scamp as a birthday present to myself and my dog, Tank, an African Basenji who will be my traveling companion on what I hope to be a great ride through the states. Most of my traveling will be in the summer as I am a professor at Southern Maine Community College but I also hope to do some winter camping over some of the holidays. Again, Thank you **Bob Siegel**, Cape Elizabeth, ME

**New Ideas** – We finally made it home from the Nebraska camp after a detour through Wichita, Dallas, and Little Rock. Had some weather problems and a minor car malfunction but nothing serious. We visited the Casita plant and decided to order a new 17 foot model. I presented the newsletter article index at the (Sandhill ScampCamp) Tech Meeting and only received limited interest from 5 people so maybe it isn't worth pursuing. I also mentioned the idea of distributing the newsletter via e-mail again with mixed interest. However **Marji Fuller** is a graphics designer who currently formats a very professional newsletter for the Michigan Wild Flower organization. She expressed an interest in laying out the Scamp (Owners) newsletter for distribution via email. If you are interested, send her a C/D of the last issue and she will make a layout as a trial. Although not everyone has e-mail it would eliminate at least 75% of the mailing and the picture quality would be significantly better. **Dave and Kathy Baker**, Alexandria, MN

*Editor's Note: Dave has offered to prepare an index of articles in back issues of the SOI News and distribute them via E-mail. If you think this is a good idea and are interested, please contact him at lindenfm@yahoo.com. The idea of offering the SOI News via E-mail has been suggested before, any interest out there?*

**Going Home** – Our Scamp (SOI) News arrived on Tuesday and we have been enjoying it! Such a nice job! Bob and I got caught coming home (from Florida) in Virginia on I-81 during a blinding snowstorm. Had to find a campground quick and remained at it till the next morning. An experience which was enjoyable in a way, but it doesn't help when you



### SOI Membership Gift

**Steve and Mary Blasko**, Glendora, NY, have an interesting suggestion. Some of us know of other Scamp owners who are not SOI Members. They would like to give a membership as a gift and asked if there is a Gift Certificate that could be used. The idea had not come up before, but a Gift Certificate has been prepared for that purpose and is now available. If this is something you would like to do, just use the same information that you provide on your SOI Membership renewal form (name, address, phone number, E-mail address, model and year of Scamp and tow vehicle) along with the usual membership fee. Send it to the Editor.

are all white on the road in snow. We are planning to go to the upstate New York ScampCamp (see details on page 13). **Bob and Carolee Anderson**, Old Lyme, CT

**Hurricane Dennis** – Hello, I went to the Sandhills ScampCamp on June 6, 2005. I am Charles Leonard, from Milton, Florida. I was glad to meet up with you'll. That was nice. I traveled 7,419 miles and arrived home July 3. I had a good time. Then I saw Dennis, the hurricane. I got my power back today (July 14) at 6:00 pm. Now, I will be cleaning up. We had Ivan last year, September 16, on my birthday. I hope to go to Sebring, Fl. February 8- 11. **Charles Leonard**, Milton, FL.

## Questions & Answers

**Screen Door** - Do you know, or know of anyone who knows, anything about the plastic sweeps/gaskets at the bottom and top of the bi-fold Scamp screen doors? (Where to get them, or replacements, and how to install them.) Both top & bottom gaskets on my door are tearing off, causing the door to jam, and I'm afraid of messing up the door. Also, the bottom of the door fits really close to the wooden threshold strip when the door is closed, even without the gasket. BUT the top of the door has an opening where the approx. 5/8 inch gasket belongs. If I can't come up with a fix, the mosquitos and lady bugs will have a field day. **June Ahrens**, Columbus, OH

**Love Bug** – I am seeking information on a 13-foot Love Bug travel trailer. It is in very bad condition and needs a total restoration. I have tried to

research the Love Bug on the internet, but have not had any luck. This little guy looks very much like a Scamp. I would appreciate it if anyone in your group, who has knowledge of this trailer, would drop me an e-mail. I am interested in finding out information as to where this trailer was manufactured, years it was built, and if it was the precursor to the Scamp. My email address is dkrikin@iceweb.net My mailing address is: **J.D. Nikirk**, 212 Seemont Dr., Kingwood, West Virginia 26537. Thanking you in advance. Joe

### Tech Corner

## Propane

Propane is the most common form of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) that can be used as a fuel in areas where natural gas is not available. It is a byproduct of the oil refining process, and is compressed into a liquid for ease of storage, transportation, and delivery. In domestic storage tanks, fuel vaporizes in the upper part of the vessel which can be tapped for cooking, heating, and other uses. In RV use, propane is commonly used to run refrigerators, hot water heaters, cooking stoves, furnaces, and other appliances. In general, it is a safe gas to store on an RV for use as an energy source as long as safety procedures are followed.

The pressure of propane is regulated down to a level compatible with the appliances it runs. In its natural form propane has no smell and an odorant (smells like rotten eggs) is added before distribution, for safety reasons. Temperature is a major factor when propane changes from a liquid state to a the gas state so it can be used. Under normal temperatures, this is not a problem. In cold climates, however, the ambient temperature is sometimes too low for propane to vaporize fast enough to be used in RVs. Thus, propane may have lim-

ited use in very cold environments.

The propane industry uses many different types and sizes of tanks, some as large as 30,000 gallons or more are used by distributors. Typical cylinders used in RVs hold 20-, 30-, or 40-pounds. Under normal circumstances, the vapor pressure at 100 °F is 172 psi. Propane weighs about 1½ times that of air. It makes a combustible mixture when mixed with air at a ratio ranging between 2.2 – 9.5% (by volume) of gas to air. Thus, any leak can easily become explosive in the confined space of a small RV.

By design, 20% of the interior space of a propane tank is reserved for liquid expansion as the temperature rises. This allows the gas to expand in volume by about 1.5% for each 10 °F increase in temperature. Proper filling of tanks depends on the experience of the operator. There are two methods commonly used in this process, weight and volume. Often, at older propane service facilities, tanks are filled using a scale. When the proper amount has been put in a tank, a scale registers the corresponding weight, and the operator shuts off the flow.

Recently, an overfill prevention device (OPD) is required on all tanks with a capacity between 4 and 40-pound, vertical non-stationary tanks. This device au-

tomatically shuts off the flow of propane into the cylinder when the level reaches the 80% liquid capacity (by volume). OPDs are not intended as the primary way to prevent overfilling of propane tanks. The operator at the filling station still has this responsibility.

Older tanks, those built before October 1998, cannot be legally filled unless modified with an OPD. This regulation became effective April 1, 2002. For ease of identifying these newer tanks, those with an OPD, the valve handle is triangular shaped. In addition, new tanks may have a different type of coupling that connects the gas lines, called pigtails, that feed to the various appliances. While it is possible to convert older tanks by installing an OPD, it is likely that it will cost about the same as purchasing a new unit. In many places, like the large chains; Wal-Mart, and the home improvement folks, it is common practice to simply “trade” an empty tank for a full one. Old propane tanks are considered hazardous material and must be disposed of properly. One method is to “trade” them in for new tanks, or at least check with the LP-gas supplier. Do not simply put them in the trash.

There are warning devices designed for RV use. They alert you to the presence of hazardous propane vapors using an alarm. They operate on 12-volts with micro current technology to save battery power. A test/reset button is



Typical large propane storage tank at a supplier.



Fueling Station – This typical propane filling facility has a relatively large storage tank, pump, hoses, and even the old fashion scales for servicing small tanks. Safety guard posts and a couple 20-pound tanks are also visible.



Thanks to Gary Adamson



A typical 12 volt propane detector device for RVs.

used to check the self cleaning detect sensor functions and a special circuit that avoids false alarms. These may be flush or surface mounted.

#### Safety Tips:

- Keep propane tanks away from heat sources.
- Store and transport tanks in an upright position with the valve closed and plugged.
  - Inspect the connecting hoses regularly for cracks or wear.
  - Make sure tanks are secured prior to travel, this should be part of any RV check list before driving.
  - When refueling your vehicle, shut off any appliance that uses propane; refrigerator, water heater, etc.
  - Check your tanks for any rust or wear, clean and paint regularly.
  - If you smell gas (that rotten egg odor), leave the RV immediately and do not use anything that will produce a “spark,” like electric switches or other sources of ignition. Shut off the propane tank and open the door to allow the gas to dissipate.

#### Meet the Makers

## Fabric and Sewing Shop

Scamp-Eveland, Inc. has had a history of producing nearly all the components that go into the manufacturing of their trailers. The process starts with the frame shop and fiberglass moldings of the exterior fiberglass shells. One aspect that seldom is noticed is all the upholstery and curtains that provide the interior finish for Scamps. All these are



Overview of Scamp's Fabric and Sewing Shop  
Photographs by K R. Cranson

fabricated in-house by a skilled team of seamstresses. Fabrics and cushion materials are purchased in bulk and this team measures, cuts and sews to create the cushions and curtains for all Scamps produced.



Ashley Smith, Nancy Harding and Sue Snavelly in the Fabric and Sewing Shop.

**Ashley Smith** – Ashley worked at Scamp for 3-years during high school. She works primarily on cushion covers. Upon graduation, she plans to attend Vermillion College in preparation to become a park ranger in law enforcement. Her father, David, is Production Manager. Ashley was home schooled.

**Nancy Harding** – Nancy has been with Scamp 5-years. She works in final preparation in the Fabric and Sewing Shop.

**Sue Snavelly** – Sue and her husband moved to Backus from the St. Paul area and have been with Scamp-Eveland, Inc. 5-years. They have 3 boys. Her husband and one son also work for Scamp.

**Editor** from page 2

in February. So far, a couple SOI members have expressed an interest – let us know if you would like to join us. We will not be attending the February ScampCamp at Highlands Hammock State Park in Florida, the first we will miss. However, there are many experienced SOI members who can plan and host the gathering without us – in fact, planning is already underway (see page 13).

*Rod*

## Future ScampCamps

**Devil's Lake ScampCamp** August 15-18, 2005 at Devils Lake State Park near Baraboo, WI. This 9,000+ acre park is one of the most popular in the state. It features spectacular scenery, great recreational activities, a nature center and miles of hiking trails. The famous Wisconsin Dells and other tourist attractions are nearby. This gathering will be in the Quartzite campground, request campsites: 41,42, 47, 49,51-61 or 85-100. Call Reserve America at 1-888-947-2757. If you have a Golden Age, Golden Eagle or Golden Access Passport card, be sure to let them know. For more information contact **Joan Gallmann**. E-mail: ggallmann@ticon.net or PH: 262-251-7283.

**New York ScampCamp** at Letchworth State Park from September 12 to 16, 2005. This park has been called the grand canyon of the east and is very beautiful. Cost is a tad over \$100, for the 3 nights, which includes an electric hookup. Water spigots are generally within 125 feet of all sites. All sites are equipped with a picnic table and ground grill. There

is a facility building with hot showers and flush toilets. A dump station is available and recycling is mandatory. The gathering will be in the northern section of the park, called Highbanks, on camp loop 200. Pets are allowed, but will need proof of current rabies vaccination and must be on a leash at all times. Of course, droppings must be removed and pets are not allowed at the camp store, playground or camper building. Reservations can be made thru Reserve America either online or by calling 1-800-456-2267. **Ray Johnson** will serve as the contact person for additional information and questions. E-mail: Scamp1940@aol.com.

**ScampCamp 2006** - February 8-11, 2005 (Tues-Fri) at Sebring, Florida is planned for our 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Vernezze** 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 has been set for the 7th Annual Meeting (formally the West Coast ScampCamp). It will be held at Terrible's Lakeside Resort in Pahump, Nevada, midway between Death Valley and Las Vegas. Attractions include a casino with a buffet and restaurant. Out-



**Leon's Logic** – “Hey! Why don't you pick out one of these ScampCamps for a good time?”

*Thanks to Leon Greisen,  
Medford, OR.*

### SOI Web Site

Dan Meyer, the SOI Web Master, would like to have some assistance with the web site? He would like someone to keep track of the classifieds and forward them to him twice a month. Some knowledge of Microsoft Front Page would be helpful. If you would like to assist Dan with the SOI Web, please contact him at: NOKFB@n0kfb.org.

door 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](mailto:teddylaw@earthlink.net).

**Soo Locks** – continued from page 16  
French missionaries and fur traders ventured into the upper Great Lakes. Today's name, Sault Ste. Marie, was assigned by the legendary Jesuit missionary and explorer Fr. Jacques Marquette who arrived here in 1668. Although it was the crossroads for everyone going to or coming from the Lake Superior region, for most of the next two centuries all travel was by water, using huge voyager canoes. Of course, everything had to be portaged around the rapids.

The British and French fought over trading rights and control of the area. In 1823 under the Treaty of the Sault, the United States was granted control and Fort Brady was built. Canada, across the river, was still in British hands and there was concern that an attack might be launched from the north. Throughout all its turbulent history the St. Marys River dominated events and life in the area. To overcome the need to portage, a lock was built on the Canadian side of the river. It was destroyed in the War of 1812 between the U.S. and British. Other small locks were built until construction started on the present-day system in 1850.

Congress granted 750,000 acres

of public land to Michigan for compensation to the company that would build a lock between Lake Superior and the other Great Lakes. The Fairbanks Scale Company, with mining projects in Michigan's northern peninsula, began a construction project in 1853. In spite of adverse conditions, the company completed a system of two 350 foot locks in tandem within the two years, a deadline set by the State of Michigan. Then, as agreed, the locks were turned over to the state and designated as the State Lock on May 31, 1855. Initially, boats passing through the State Lock were required to pay a toll of four cents per ton. In 1877 it was reduced to three cents.

Commerce through the locks grew rapidly and within a few years the need for new locks was evident. The money needed for such a project exceeded the state's capabilities, so the locks were transferred to the federal government in 1881. They were placed under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to operate, and have been managed by them every since. The toll was removed and now ships using the locks pay no fee.

Geologically, all the locks have been constructed in the Jacobsville Sandstone.

This late Precambrian formation rims much of the south shore of Lake Superior from near the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula to north of Sault Ste. Marie. In the past its distinctive color, a mix of reddish brown and cream, and pleasing patterns has made it a popular building



*Jacobsville Core* – This plug of sandstone was taken from the bedrock during construction of the Poe Lock in the 1960s.

stone across Michigan's northern peninsula. In Sault Ste. Marie many of the prominent buildings used the Jacobsville that was being mined during construction of the Edison Sault Electric Company Canal about a hundred years ago.

The original State Locks have been replaced by two canals and four locks:

**Davis Lock**, entered service in 1914. It was 1,350 feet long, 80 feet wide and 23.1 feet deep.

**Sabin Lock**, entered service in 1919. It was 1,350 feet long, 80 feet wide and 23.1 feet deep (closed).

**MacArthur Lock**, entered service 1943. It was 800 feet long, 80 feet wide and 31 feet deep (named in honor of General Douglas MacArthur)

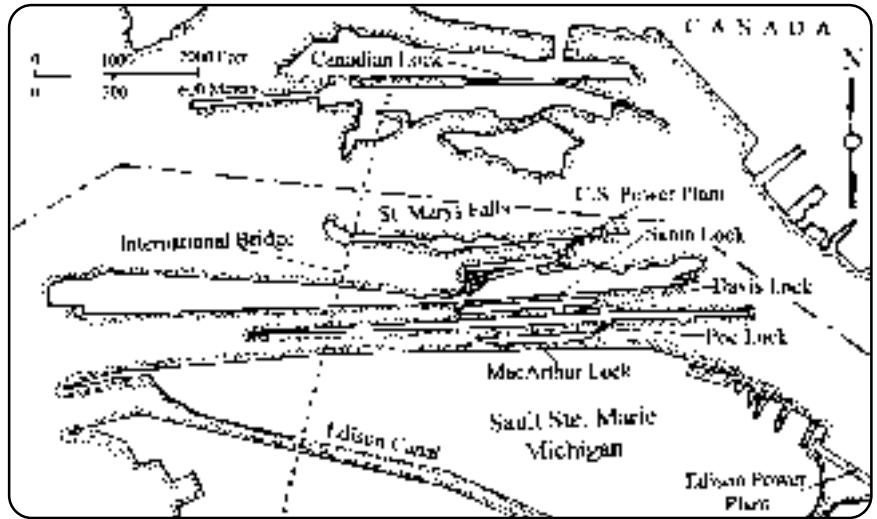
**Poe Lock**, entered service in 1968. It was 1,200 feet long, 110 feet wide and 32 feet deep.



*Huge Ship – One of the 1,000+ foot ships that routinely pass through the Soo Locks.*

These canals and locks allow vessels of many types and sizes to traverse the 21-foot drop in elevation between Lake Superior and Lake Huron. Modern ocean going ships, many over a 1,000 feet long and capable of carrying more than 72,000 tons of cargo, routinely sail into and out of Lake Superior.

In addition to water moving through the locks, there are two diversion canals that use the elevation difference to generate electrical energy. These provide electrical power to operate the locks with the



surplus going to the local area. Some of Lake Superior's water continues to flow down the St. Marys River Rapids, but is much diminished from its natural condition.

The Army Corp of Engineers operates a Visitors Center at the locks that offers historical and technical information about the Soo Locks. In addition, an observation platform is conveniently located nearby permitting visitors the opportunity to watch ships passing through the locks. An excellent guide for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Soo Locks may be requested from the Sault Ste. Marie Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-647-2858 or their web site: [www.saultstemarie.com](http://www.saultstemarie.com).



*Edison Power Plant – This hydroelectric generating facility, located below Soo Locks, uses a difference in elevation between Lake Superior and Lake Huron. It is made of Jacobsville Sandstone, removed from the canal that feeds the plant.*



# Soo Locks

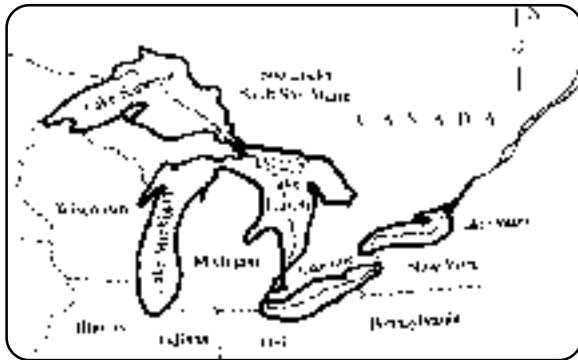
By K R. Cranson

Where are the busiest shipping locks in the world? Panama Canal? Suez Canal?

These are well known, but more ships and shipping pass through the Soo locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan than any other system. The Soo Locks will be celebrating their 150 anniversary during 2005. Actually a lock

and countries, including Native Americans, followed by the French, then the English, and now, of course, the United States. It is the place where people came to “jump the Saint Marys River” that now separates Michigan from Ontario, Canada. The river and rapids was an important gathering place long before Europeans arrived – mainly because of the abundant supply of fish.

At Sault Ste. Marie the rapids on the St. Marys River flow from Lake Superior to Lake Huron with a drop of some 21 feet (~7 meters). It is the only water connection between Lake Superior and the other Great Lakes. For over 2,000 years it had been an important location where Native Americans assembled during the spring and fall seasons. They called it *Bahweting*, “the Gathering Place.” As early as the 1600s,



*Sault Ste Marie – The Soo Locks are located between the U.S. and Canada along the St. Marys River.*

All images by KR. Cranson

was built much earlier, in 1797 by the Northwest Fir Company. However, it was only large enough to accommodate vessels the size of large canoes (just 38 feet long). The first large lock was completed in 1855 at a cost of a million dollars. Its construction was prompted as an economical way to ship iron ore and copper from the large mines around Marquette and along the Keweenaw Peninsula, respectively.

Sault Ste. Marie comes from the French influence in honor of the Virgin Mary and means “to jump.” This city is the oldest in Michigan and third oldest in the United States. This region has been controlled by a number of people



*This old wooden canoe lock, on the Canadian side of the river, was an early effort to move boats around the rapids and it has recently been refferbished.*

see **Soo Locks** on page 14

