

# ***SOI***

## ***News***



Spring 2006

**Scamp Owners International**

Volume VIII Number 2



*A group of RVs camped on a beautiful sandy beach along the Sea of Cortez on the Baja Peninsula in Mexico. See Baja Trip on page 11. Photograph by K R. Cranson*

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## From the Editor's Desk

The Baja is an interesting place. It is also a very long drive to the southern tip of the peninsula! The entire trip lasted 20 days for us and was an adventure. Such a drive is not for everyone, and on a number of occasions, I was sure it was not for me. However, it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I am glad we did it – I think! Look for a report in a future issue.

Our trip to the southwest, excluding the Baja gig, was great. Most of January was spent parked in the yard at one of the permanent homes at SIL and Wycliffe Bible Translators facility in Catalina, some 20 miles north of Tucson. We were volunteers; Sharon in the upholstery shop and I did mostly photography related tasks. There were a great bunch of volunteers there from all over the U.S. and Canada along with the regular staff. The weather was great, warm and sunny during the day and cool in the evenings. On our days off (Fri., Sat. and Sun.) there were fantastic hiking opportunities everywhere, and we took advantage of many of them. We visited Saguaro National Park twice and several others (see page 9).

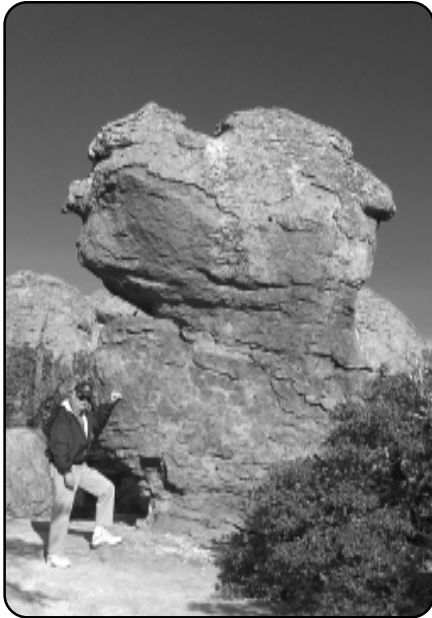
SOI members **Larry** and **Teddy Page** joined us for the drive to Quartzite as we departed the Tucson area. Quartzite is one of those places you hear about, wonder what it's like, and would like to visit someday. We parked our trailers, along with a hundred others, on a part of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land about 2 miles north of town and then drove in. Flea markets and other booths were set up everywhere and people were selling everything imaginable. It appears there are tens of thousands of people with RVs parked all over the desert during

the winter. During the rest of the year, Quartzite is merely a wide area along I-10 in western Arizona. Our visit was fun, but not something I would like to do on a regular schedule.

As summer approaches, I must plan for a trip to Oregon, specifically Crater Lake National Park, to deliver a supply of my books. I hope to leave sometime in mid-June and be in the park by the last week of the month. From what I understand, it has been a wet/snowy winter in the Pacific Northwest this year, so the park has a greater than average snow pack. I am planning to be in the area for most of July, and perhaps part of August. If you happen to be visiting Crater Lake National Park during those months, perhaps we can say "HI" somewhere along a trail or at Rim Village? Anyway, look for my book.

As some wise sage noted, "life is a journey, not a destination." As I get older, that comment certainly seems to express my experience more and more. This is the eighth year that I have written and published the *SOI News*. It has been great fun, entertaining, and a growth experience for myself and Sharon (she does most of the critical editing before it goes to the printer!). Even beyond that, and more satisfying than the newsletter, are all the great people

Continued on page 15



**Rod Cranson**

Editor

Checking out one of the many erosional features along a trail in Chiricauha National Monument in southeastern Arizona.

## SOI News

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Volume VIII Number 2

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.

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# Scamp Fire

You have likely heard about the fire at the Scamp-Eveland, Inc. factory in Backus, MN on January 13, 2006 (Friday). The entire assembly operation was totally destroyed, only a few walls remained standing when the blaze was finally extinguished. The fire started about 6 pm after a series of explosions. A number of extremely flammable materials, including propane, resin, and fiberglass, are used in the construction process. There were eight area fire departments offering assistance in addition to the Backus Fire Department – it required over 7 hours to extinguish the fire.

A parts storage building was saved along with the Sales Office. Also, the Wood Trim Shop and Frame Shop were spared as they are located at sites away from the main plant. Otherwise, nearly everything needed to build Scamps was lost, including all the molds for the fiberglass shells and tools used during assembly. A few finished trailers, parked outside, were saved but the 35 on the assembly line were lost. Debris has been cleared away and plans are well underway to build a new facility at the same site. Also, work has begun on making new molds for the fiberglass shells. Scamp's 45 employees are providing input for the new factory. Kent Eveland, the

owner, noted "They do the work and have suggestions."

A new steel building has been ordered and should be in place by mid-to late-May, 2006. Also,

applications for the necessary permits have been submitted to the appropriate governmental agencies. Approval is expected by the time the new building is completed. If all things go smoothly and as planned, regular production in the new facility may begin as early as August. There will, of course, be some "glitches" that must be worked out. It is expected, however, that by the spring of 2007 Scamps will be back in full production. In the meanwhile, some production is ongoing. A few trailers parked outside the factory were partially finished and are now being completed.

The Eveland family started the business in 1971 and originally built 13-foot Boler trailers under a contract with that Canadian company. Later, in 1973, they started building a similar 13-foot fiberglass trailer using the name Scamp. The 16-foot Scamp, their best selling unit, was introduced in 1977 and the popular 19-foot (5<sup>th</sup> Wheel) came online in 1980. It takes about 45 hours to build a 13-foot Scamp and 100 to complete a 5<sup>th</sup> Wheel.

The fire



*View of the south end of the Scamp-Eveland Inc. assembly buildings. The fiberglass forming area is on the left and the final assembly area on the right.*



*Remains of the Scamp-Eveland Inc. office at the front of the main production building.*



*The main Scamp-Eveland Inc. production facilities in Backus, Minnesota was a total loss.*

at Scamp on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> may be seen as “bad luck.” However, there could be a positive aspect when viewed a few years from now. While no one would wish such an event on a company, it does provide the opportunity to take a “fresh look” at the product being produced. And, by deliberately and thoughtfully designing a new modern facility, may allow changes that will greatly improve Scamp trailers that never would have been possible in the old factory.

*Editor's Note: Thanks to Gerald and Rose Marie Peterson, Hudson, SD who sent two news articles about the fire at Scamp in Backus, MN.*

## ScampCamp 2006

February 8 -11, 2006  
Highlands Hammock State Park  
Sebring, Florida

**February ScampCamp 2006** started as soon as we pulled into our site. The Early Birds were there; in fact 22 Scamp Trailers were settled into their sites by the afternoon of the 5<sup>th</sup>. We had sent out the Agenda on the internet, via emails. A few extra's came early because of the “Early Bird Chili Dump.”



*The traditional ScampCamp 2006 group portrait at Highlands Hammock State Park in Sebring, FLorida.  
Photographs by A. Vernezze*



*Long-time SOI members(L to R) Beverley Lilly, Judy Freed, Merle Lilly, and Jack Freed enjoy chatting at ScampCamp 2006.*

That was a great success. We were afraid we wouldn't have enough, but we had some left-over. That evening we had a fun game of Card Bingo, Alice Vernezze didn't have a loud enough voice and Ray Meyer volunteered to be her voice. He was a great help. It was requested that we play again, so we did on Thursday.

**Tuesday:** We greeted the arriving Scamps, Alice had 2 helpers, **Carolee Anderson & Helen Moore**. They both got the info delivered to all the new arrivals. In the evening we had our “Getting to Know You Night.” **Bob Anderson** was the narrator and co-host. We had quite a good meal. **Bill Heidelberg**, one of the new comers, got up in front to say it was a wonderful meal and there were 3 dishes so outstanding, he wanted the recipes. Afterward there was a camp fire at **Merle Lilly's** site. We had **Doreen Black, Dick Freed & Jim Converse** entertaining us. They all did an unbelievable job.

**Wednesday:** Tech time started the morning off, chaired by **Bob Anderson & Ivan Moore** followed by Tour of the Trailers. At 4 pm we had the group portrait. And at 6 pm we went to the Recreation Center for the whole park get together. Again the food was outstanding. This year we had a word game contest. The winner was **Bonnie Kincaid**. Her prize was first choice at “The Great Give-away.”

**Thursday:** We started with Donuts & Coffee at the Rec hall and **Judy Freed**,

our “Craft Guru,” had great new idea’s for a craft. We did 3 crafts and shared some great chit-chat. We made a door-knob hanger to welcome our friends to our little eggs. Plus, a few years earlier, **Judy Freed** and **Barb Bell** wrote a Scamping Song which we put on a cardboard backing and decorated them with foam shapes. We also made a pin out of puzzle pieces. We then went to Homers Buffet and shared more chit-chat. At 2 pm we had our annual “Great Giveaway,” there were many great prizes, donated by several members and a few donated from Sam’s Club for our event. The “Dumpster Diving Give Away” was a big hit. With **Bob Anderson** giving away many finds, even the kitchen sink. After the giveaway we were entertained by the **Bells, Dick and Barb**, on their dulcimers. The park made 6 different homemade soups, and a few desserts, for our evening meal. While the kitchen crew cleaned up we played another round of Card Bingo.

**Friday:** At 9:30 **Bob Anderson** had a walk in the park, for several members. He called it a “Nature Walk.” At 11 am on site #125 we held a recipe exchange. **Dick** and **Lynda Freed** made up a pamphlet of pictures and recipes to add to our **SOI Cook Book**. In the evening we had our final get together, **Alice Vernezz** had frozen the chili and hot dogs and we shared those, along with the other dishes. In the evening we had our final campfire and enjoyed the entertainment. We also joined in singing with **Linda Meyer** and **Doreen Black** leading us. We had almost perfect weather. Warm during the day & chilly during the night. Everyone left with a smile on their faces. Lots of memories of all the new friends made, and hopeful that next year we can renew our friendships again.

**Saturday:** Evening the **Felkers, Gerry** and **Wayne** were hosting a

“S’ mores Party.” I’m sorry to say we missed that one, but I hope they had good weather.

Report by **Alice Vernezz**

## A Kansas Memory by Leon Greisen

Janice and I really enjoyed the (16-foot Scamp) trailer and used it for 90 nights straight on one trip and on another trip we used it 70 nights in a row and we enjoyed every night in it.

One time back in Kansas a storm came up and the lightning and thunder came and then the wind began to blow. It was a Kansas storm coming to knock us around. It did just that! We had a weather radio with us and when the weather was good the green light would be on. When the weather would turn bad the red light would turn on and a man would come on to say “If you can take cover, take cover now!” Now, that is enough to scare anyone. It was about 2am and the lightning and thunder and wind and rain were so strong I thought someone was throwing rocks at us.

We were camped out at Janice’s brother’s farm in front of his barn. We were there by ourselves in the dark, except when the lighting lit up the sky. At about 2:30 am, when neither of us had



“Chatting,” one of the main activities at ScampCamp 2006



Leon and Janice Greisen’s 16-foot Scamp and pickup tow vehicle on one of their trips across the United States Photographs by L. & J. Greisen



*Leon and Janice visit the SOI Editor in Lansing, Michigan, during their long trip across the country.*

any sleep, Janice said we are going home tomorrow! Tomorrow came, and the sun was out and the sky was so blue, just like nothing had happened the night before. When we finally woke up from that scary night, the cows were mooing and the roosters were crowing and the many kinds of birds were chirping and the cats were meowing and the

dogs were barking. We knew it would be a good day. We stayed a few more days and forgot how scary that night was. On that night a tornado hit the little town where Janice grew up, called Bartlett, Kansas, and took all the tree-tops off and threw them into a field.

We used the little Scamp on many weekend trips and wish we still had it at times when ScampCamps come around. . . . We had many great camping days and nights with our Scamp.

*Editor's note: This is an excerpt from a letter received from Leon Greisen, one of the early SOI Members. Leon and Janice have a very large "Scamp" now, sometimes called an Airstream, and are still SOI Members, and live in Medford, OR.*

## Special Scamps

**Take Five** – We picked up our Scamp 5<sup>th</sup> Wheel in September 2004 at the plant in Backus, Minnesota. We were very sorry to hear of the fire, but have seen on their



web site that they are planning to rebuild – certainly hope so, as they are great people!

After we returned home Kevin wanted to personalize our camper. Our granddaughter, Laura Ann McGuigan, did some drawings for us and along with a local detail company, came up with the design featured on our Scamp. We chose the Blue Heron because we lie in Cecil County, Maryland, at the head of the Chesapeake Bay. The saying **Take Five** came from Kevin. For years he has worked in the carpentry trade, and at break time, he would tell his men to 'take five' meaning take a break. We also have a sign on our back porch that we made from a piece of driftwood with this saying. For years, our five children thought that Take Five meant take the five children . . .

So far we have taken our Scamp to Killen's Pond near Harrington, Delaware, in October of 2004. To our surprise, we met another Scamp owner, Edgar and Don from New Jersey. We have also been to Greenbrier State Park just outside Hagerstown, Maryland, and to a small campground in Pennsylvania called Pequea Creek.

We attended our first ScampCamp at Letchworth State Park, met many wonderful campers and wish we had more time to camp. We love camping in the Scamp and can't wait for retirement. We would like to take a couple months and tour the west and hope to be able to take the next SOI Alaska tour, but will miss the 2006 Scamp caravan. Hopefully, there will be a ScampCamp at Fancy Gap along the Blue Ridge Parkway, that is not too far away and we would love to attend. **Kevin and Judy Johnson**, Rising Sun, MD

**Precious Moments** – SOI member **Bob Snyder**, Wichita, KS, recently found this special 13-foot Scamp (or is it a Boler?) At Precious Moments in Carthage, MO.



Photography by Bob Snyder

In a note with the photograph, he wonders if the Cubby Bear RV Park there might be a good choice for a future ScampCamp? According to their web site, the park has 70 pull-through sites and electrical and water hook-ups along with showers, game room, dump station, an oversized heated outdoor pool, hot tub, and shuttle to Precious Moments. Bob notes there are lots of things to do in the area.

**Baja Burro** – This good looking 13-foot Burro was parked next to a Chinese restaurant in Guerrero Negro, one of the few larger cities in southern Baja.



It was a real surprize and appears to be in excellent condition. This little egg is used by the owners for vacations and to promote the restaurant. A fellow we spoke with, although it was a bit tricky as he spoke mostly Spanish, was not sure how old it was. He did say it originally came from California and had been in the family for some years. **K.R. Cranson**, Lansing, MI.

## SOI Profile

### Art & Marcia Hadacek

#### Bent Mountain, Virginia

Many Scamp owners have had many jobs over their careers, but Art and Marcia may win the prize in this category.

Art enlisted in the Navy in 1943 before enrolling in college in 1946. He graduated with a BS in Forestry from Iowa State College, University now (are there any trees in Iowa ? ) .

Marcia received a BS in Home Economics from the same school. They moved to Washington where he worked for the Washington State Division of Forestry (there are trees there!). Back in Clutier, Iowa, they were in the hardware business for awhile. Then, Art spent 30 years with the U.S. Forest Service and also served in the Navel Reserve for 24 years.

During this time, Marcia was a homemaker and raised their 6 children. She also taught piano for 15 years. While she has retired from teaching piano, it is impossible to get her to retire from home-making. Her interests are in sewing (a necessity with 6 kids!), flower gardens, vegetable gardens, garage saleing, Bible studies, teaching Sunday School, hiking, collecting creche's, singing in the church choir, camping, and mission trips.

Art was transferred to the Retired Navel Reserve in the late 1970s and retired from the Forest Service in 1983. He



Marcia and Art serving as volunteers with Wycliffe Associates at the Mexico Branch in Catalina, Arizona.

Photograph by K.R. Cranson



*The SOI Bird says "Wouldn't you like to be featured in the SOI Profile column?"*

is a Master Electrician and Plumber (from his hardware days?) And had a small business for 15 years. He and his son were in farming together raising Angus calves for market. His interests and hobbies over the years include earning a private pilots license, photography, mechanics, hunting, fishing, boating, woodworking, general repair work, teaching Sunday School, volunteer work in the Church—the Salvation Army—Wycliffe Bible Translators—Word of Life Missions—Church youth mission trips.

As might be expected, Art and Marcia have traveled widely. In 1949 Marcia caught the "travel bug" early as an International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) student to Sweden for 5 months. They have traveled extensively through the U.S. as tent campers, pop-up campers, with a Class C motor home, and their Scamp 5<sup>th</sup> Wheel – visiting all 50 states. Art is quick to note that they didn't drive to Hawaii! In addition, they have traveled in Sweden, Norway, Europe, Israel, Egypt, Japan, China, New Zealand, Mexico, England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.

During all this "wandering," they have taught English as a Second Language in Slovakia for Baptist Missions and Art has been on three mission trips to Mexico and two mission trips to Argentina. For the past 16 years they have been doing volunteer work for Wycliffe Bible Translators at Catalina, Arizona from January through March. Marcia works in the sewing room and Art does electrical work. He has also traveled to Mexico to assist with construction at a Wycliffe center.

The Hadaceks bought their Scamp at Crow Wing, MN and returned it to Backus to have the hitch installed in their '94 Toyota pickup.

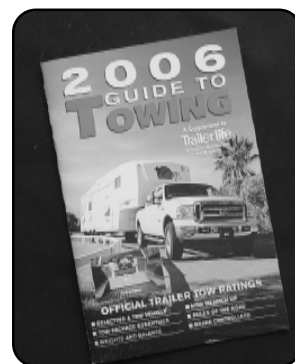
They also had an inverter installed. Art bought a new heavy duty axle and wheels and installed them himself. In addition, they have made a bunch of improvements and changes, including: new fresh water tank tie downs, sealed the floor with fiberglass, replaced the carpet and window curtains, built a storage cabinet over the dinning table, added an outside phone jack and TV jack, ran a 110v outlet to the bedroom, added a second sewer hose storage tube, installed shutoff in the gas lines, installed a water heater bypass valve, built book shelves, installed positive latches to keep cabinet and refrigerator doors/drawes closed, added a clothesline, and many others.

To top off all these things, Art and Marsha have built 3 houses. The most recent was of all steel construction, their home is now in a beautiful valley in southern Virginia within sight of the Blue Ridge Parkway. How lucky can you get?

## What's New

**TL Towing Guide - The 2006 Guide to Towing**, a supplement with the January issue of *Trailer Life* magazine is now available. It contains a wealth of information on many aspects of the new vehicles available for towing recreational trailers. As you might expect, engine size and tow limits of all the 2006 vehicles are listed. But, there is much more. Following a review of some of the more muscle-bound vehicles, such as big

Fords, Dodge, Chevy pickups, and a few SUV types, there is a section on selecting a tow vehicle. Some six pages of this 52 page booklet are dedicated to





the lingo of weight ratings (GCWR, GVWR, GAWR), section of axle ratios, drive systems (2-wheel vs 4-wheel), hitches and other gear, among other details. The final few pages discuss trailer brakes and the various models of controller systems available. The *2006 Guide to Towing* is sponsored by Ford and a couple other companies, so there is some advertisement. Apparently the only way to get a copy is with the 2006 January issue of *Trailer Life*, but all in all, it's a nice little reference to check out.

**More from Trailer Life** - There are two really nice articles in the 2006 January issue of *Trailer Life* magazine. A great piece on the Petrified Forest National Park in north central Arizona along I-40. The article, "Triassic Park," is so named because the rocks that contain the petrified logs and other fossils are of Triassic age. It is a great place to learn a bit about geology, especially the way fossils form. Another piece, "Digging Into Dinosaurs," reviews a fascinating area at Alberta's Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology. The museum is at Drumheller, about 100 miles northeast of Calgary and claims to be "a land richer in dinosaurs fossils than anywhere on the planet."

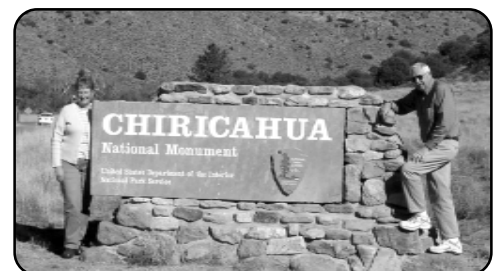
**Wax Recommendation** - The question is frequently asked "what to use to wax the fiberglass surface of your Scamp?" **Art Hadachek** suggests the following product, Supercoat Surface Treatment. The company offers a number of products for a variety of needs. The one specifically designed for fiberglass is called Supercoat R.V. Surface Treatment and is compatible with all finishes. Additional information can be found and orders made over the web at: [www.supercoat.com](http://www.supercoat.com).

**A Warning** - After I bought my 16-foot Scamp in May, 2005, I noticed there was no LP gas detector installed. So I put one of the Safe T Alerts (MTI Industries, Inc., E-mail: [www.safe-t-alert.com](http://www.safe-t-alert.com)) detectors in the trailer. I also called and talked with Kent Eveland and read him the ANSI information, Rules of the Road. It reads "ANSI A119.2 - Fire & Life Safety, 3-4.8 LP Gas Detectors, 'An LP gas detector must be installed in any RV that contains any LP gas appliances and an electrical system. The LP gas detector must be listed as suitable for the use in recreation vehicles under the requirements of UL 1484 Residential Gas Detectors, and be installed according to the terms of its listing. - RVIA Effective Date 9/96, Revised 9/99.'" **John Martineau**, Kalispell, MT, submitted this information and believes this is a very serious situation. See also the Tech Corner article on Propane in the 2005 Summer issue of the *SOI News*, page 10.

## Great Parks

# Chiricahua National Monument

Some bands of the Chiricahua Apaches made the Chiricahua Mountains in southwestern Arizona their home beginning in the early 1400s. Cochise and Geronimo, famous Apache leaders, led raids on pioneers who settled in the region - that "war" ended in 1886. About this time the Erickson family homesteaded here near Bonita Creek. Later, a daughter converted the original home



Photographs by K R. Cranson



*Here is a typical pininacle eroded into the rhyolite along the Echo Canyon Trail*

into a guest ranch called Faraway Ranch. Trails into the mountains were developed allowing visitors to experience the fantastic rock formations in the Chiricahua Mountains.

When the Chiricahua National Monument was created in 1924, the Faraway Ranch was incorporated into the monument. As the Great Depression intensified in the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was formed and Company 828 was encamped at Chiricahua N.M. As with many of the other 118 CCC camps in National Park Service areas, many examples of their work can be seen – trails, roads, rock work, etc.

Chiricahua National Monument is a land of “Standing Up Rocks.” It is a good example of many of the mountains in southern Arizona known as “sky islands,” part of the Basin and Range Province. During the geological development of the southwestern United States, the region was “stretched” causing breaks (faults) in the Earth’s crust. Portions of crust was dropped down along faults to form deep valleys while the remaining sections were left elevated and appeared as “mountains.” Of course, erosion went to work on the high regions breaking down the rock and transporting the debris into the adjacent valleys. Over time, the valleys were

“poured” full of eroded rock materials to form the relatively flat areas between the mountains. There are thousands of feet of sediment below

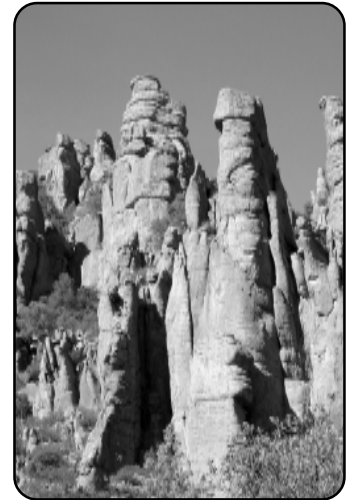
Arizona roads traversing the southern portion of the state between the “sky islands.”

The geological history of the Chiricahua Mountains is a fascinating story that can be visualized along the roads and trails in the monument. The rocks are mostly a form of volcanic material known as ash flows.

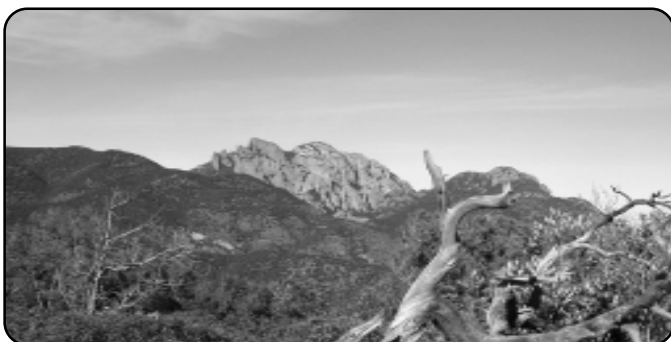
These are formed when a large volcano or volcanic area experiences a massive explosive eruption. Ash flows are ejected during the eruption flow away from the volcanic vent and may travel many miles before settling and eventually becoming rock. The source of these flows in Chiricahua N.M. was the Turkey Creek Volcano some miles to the southeast. An area of over 3,100 km<sup>3</sup> (1,200 mi<sup>3</sup>) was covered by the rhyolite flows.

Over time the ash flows cooled and hardened into rock. The region was uplifted resulting in cracks (called “joints”) forming in these rocks. As in all mountains, water enters these cracks to weather (deterioration) the rocks and eventually carrying the loose materials downslope. This, of course, enlarges the joints, and in time, leaves the rock in spire-like features (often called pinnacles). This is the case at Chiricahua N.M. In addition to the pinnacles, there are many other features typical of volcanic ash flows in the 12,000 acre park.

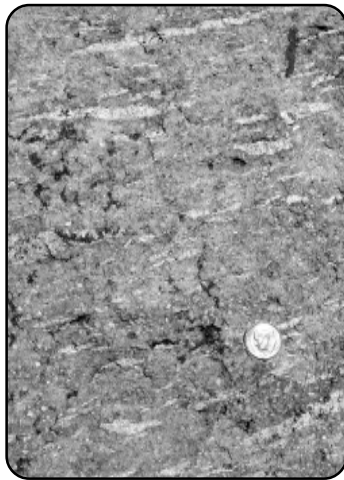
Beyond the fascinating geology, there are interesting flora and fauna throughout the monument. With a huge range of elevations, approaching a mile, plants and trees



*Massive erosional pinnacles along the Scenic Drive*



*A view north from the Heart of Rocks with Cochise Head on the skyline.*



*A close-up of the rhyolite shows the thin light colored zones called flamme. These represent pieces of pumice that have collapsed.*

representing four ecosystems are present. Everything between a desert environment to those typical of high mountains can be seen – yuccas and cactus to ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. Birds and animals also display similar range of species. All of this is made accessible by some 17 miles of trails that wind throughout the park at all elevations. Not into hiking, try driving the eight mile scenic drive that climbs through most of the ecosystems. It ends at a high observation point with a 360-degree view into Rhyolite Canyon, adjacent valleys, and the surrounding mountains. Or, you can pickup the hiker's shuttle at the visitor center that drops you off on top for a downhill hike back down via Echo and Rhyolite Canyons.

Like most national park areas, the small campground (only 24 sites) at Chiricahua N.M. has no hookup and accommodates smaller RVs. Scamps fit just fine. Grounds of the Faraway Ranch and Stafford Cabin are open and a trail guide is available. Depending on staffing, tours of the Faraway Ranch house may be offered. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Chiricahua N.M. at 13063 East Bonita Canyon Rd., Willcox, AZ 85643, PH: 520-824-3560 or E-mail: [www.nps.gov/chir](http://www.nps.gov/chir).

Prepared by K R. Cranson



**Baja Trip -** Thanks for the “freebee” newsletter. Great stuff. We’ve had ours for years, dragging it to all our many projects around the West, and even all the way to Cabo (at the southern tip of Baja, Mexico). We pulled it first with a VW Vanagon, but nowadays use a 4-Runner because it had four-wheel drive. Gets down the beach just a tad farther. Also included are two photographs that might be of interest in some future issue. The photo with Nancy playing guitar is at Burro Bay in the Baja de Concepcion, near Mulege. The other is Los Freiles Beach at Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park, one of the more remote places you can drag a trailer in Baja. It’s about three hours north of Cabo on the Sea of Cortez side. Getting there requires a full hour’s driving over what appears to be a goat path. Again, I enjoyed reading your efforts. Keep it up. **Larry and Nancy Eifert**

**Another Scamp? -** We love our Scamp. Have been to Alaska traveled the whole state where you could drive – had a great trip. Was in Arizona last winter and spring, also had a good trip. Would you folks happen to know where I might be able to get information as to used Scamp trailers? I’m interested in a 16 foot or 13-foot older model just to use as a hunting trailer for my son and myself. **Bob Rognstad**, Arlington, WA.

**Dear Folks -** Thanks for all your hard work on the newsletter and SOI

**Baja Trip -** Thanks for the “freebee” newsletter. Great stuff. We’ve had ours for years, dragging it to all our many projects



*Larry and Nancy with their 16-foot Scamp camped on a Baja beach.*

*Photographs by L. & N. Eifert*



*Nancy playing her guitar on a Baja beach with their Scamp.*

organization. We are happy “Scampers” and took a 9,500 mile trip this summer – even stopped in Backus. **Pat** and **Marianne**, San Diego, CA.

**Travels** - We traveled from California to Missouri in April, from Missouri to Virginia in October, and from Missouri to California in November. About 8,000 miles total with no problems at all. **Bill** and **Connie Castle**, Riverside, CA.

*Editor's Note: could this be a testimonial for a Scamp trailer?*

**A Burro** - I still have my wonderful 1985 16-foot with 5 roof vents (escape hatches) – whoever owned it before me did that. I certainly enjoy all the extra fresh air. Last month while traveling across north Florida on a camping trip, I came across a 13-foot Burro for sale. I had to have it! I might bring the Burro to a Sebring ScampCamp this February instead of my 16-foot Scamp. The Burro is an '82 and in almost new condition. So, I'm a proud owner of an '85 16-foot Scamp and a 13-foot Burro

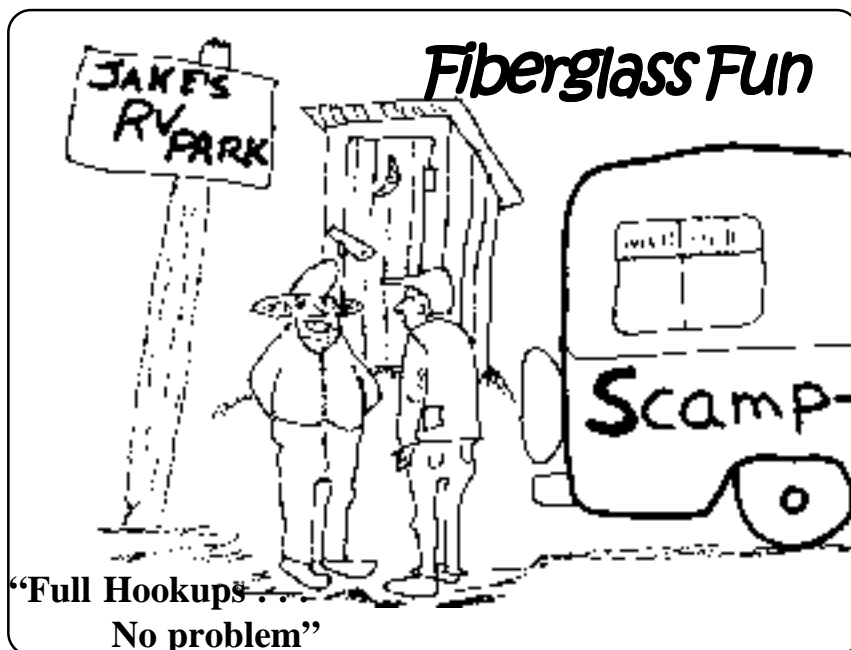
– I tow them with a 2003 Ford Ranger. **Lynnette Birch**, St. Petersburg, FL.

**More Sad News** – My husband Andrew and I have been members of the Scamp Owner's International for a number of years . . . Andrew passed away November 26, 2005. . . . We always enjoyed reading the newsletter and wished many times we could have attended a Scamp Camp. Thanks. **Ruth Koerber**, Dearborn, MI

## Questions and Answers

**Mold-Leak Problem** – We have a Scamp 5th Wheel that has a water/mold problem in the upper bed corner on the exterior corner adjoining the bathroom and bed. The moisture and mold gets trapped under the mattress in this corner. I cannot find the source of this moisture as there is no sign of a leak coming from up above. Could the water work its way up from below? Could it be coming from the bathroom shower ledge? Any help or similar problems with other owners of Scamp 5th Wheels would be helpful. Thanks. **Brian Busaker**.

**Houseboat Scamp** – My wife and I are considering retirement. We are in accord on all matters (WOW) and the ball is in my lap. I'm an avid angler (fly fishing up front but not a snob) and am looking at two scenarios: (1) Getting to as many rivers in as many states as possible. A Scamp slips in neatly right here. Economics. There are two adults and a Boxer Dog. (2) I happen to live near an absolutely wonderful lake I've fished for ages and am completely comfortable with the idea of fishing it for the next 20 years.



I also happen to be the owner of a 24-foot bare bones frame pontoon boat with huge pontoons. I'm grappling with the idea of chasing rivers or setting up accommodations on the pontoon for overnight excursions and long idle time on the lake. This grappling leads to my current inquiry about Scamps. Has anyone ever inquired about a Scamp travel trailer without an axle and other "road" gear? No trailer? Something one could set and anchor to a pontoon boat for overnight accommodations? Seems like a match made in heaven, to me at least. I am at the entry level on this idea. Any comments? **Bob Martin**

**Perris Pacer** – Hi there! I'm a member of SOI and hope to make it to a Western US fiberglass trailer event. I have a couple questions for the *SOI News* readers regarding my trailer. I have a 1982 Perris Valley Camper – a Perris Pacer. It's



a 13-foot model and seems to have the same floor plan as the current

13-foot Scamp (without the bathroom). All in all, it's in pretty good shape but I'd like to do some minor repairs. Is anyone familiar with this make and model and do they know of any other owners? I can't find much at all on the internet - which seems amazing these days.

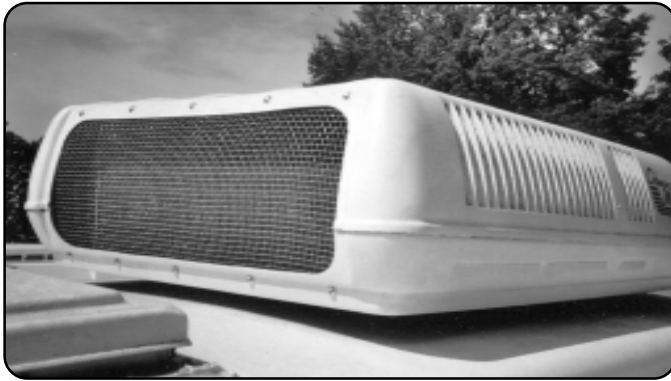
Second, are there any SOI Members in Central California? My husband is a Harbor Patrol officer in a small town called Avila Beach. There is excellent RV parking along the ocean front. I'd be interested in meeting up with some other small trailer owners to discuss repair ideas and just have some fun. I use the heck out of this trailer on my own, since my husband works weekends.

Finally, does anyone know of any manufacturers of 13-foot model covers? We have mild weather here so something as simple as a tyvek cover would work. Thanks and happy camping to everyone!  
**Paige Chamberlain**, Los Osos, CA.

## Modifications and Changes

**A/C Repair** – Even though we didn't get out much, I did make several changes to our 16-foot deluxe Scamp that I thought might be useful to other SOI Members. Kansas is noted for severe weather, and last spring we had a big hail storm. It punched a small hole in our A/C plastic shroud, and bent many of the rear facing condenser fins. The Scamp fiberglass shell was not damaged though. I removed the A/C shroud and applied a fiberglass and epoxy patch on the inside so it is now as good as new. While I was at it, I also applied patches over the inside of the 4 mounting holes which are prone to cracking out.

In order to get at the back of the condenser to straighten the bent fins, I removed the escape hatch actuator, slid the hatch sideways off the hinge, and drilled out the 4 rivets holding the screen hinges to the hatch frame. This left a large opening right behind the A/C unit. By standing on a stool inside, I was able to straighten the fins with my head and arms outside the hatch opening. Not a fun job on a hot day! To avoid having to do this again, I installed a piece of 1/4 inch mesh hardware cloth over the shroud opening, using 10 small machine screws and lock-nuts with large fender washers on the inside against the screen. The resulting change greatly improves the looks of the



Photograph by Bob Snyder

A/C unit and keeps tree branches out when backing into a camp site. I reinstalled the screen hinges with sheet metal screws

(stainless steel?) in place of the 4 rivets. I had always thought that the rear shroud opening should have had a screen on it originally.

After breaking off a couple of the plastic fingers in the electrical cord opening, I discovered that a rubber garbage disposal drain cover (the kind that fits down into a sink drain with several rubber fingers) fits perfectly inside the electrical opening. Use a plastic glue to hold it in place. Most hardware stores carry them. The rubber fingers will never break like the plastic ones!

I also had a problem with the 2 screws coming loose that hold the furnace inside cover in place. The sheet metal screws don't hold very well in the sheet metal furnace frame. I installed "Palnuts" over the holes in the furnace frame and reinstalled the original 2 screws. Use the type of Palnuts made to slip over the edge of the frame, not the flat type.

To keep the dauber wasps out of my furnace, I installed stainless steel hemispherical screens over the 2 external furnace vents. These insets are quite common here in Kansas, and can really mess up a furnace. RV parts dealers carry these screens.

To avoid running down my tow vehicle battery when I am using 12 volt power in the Scamp, I installed a relay in my car which only lets power from

the car to the trailer when the engine is running. This system avoids the necessity of unplugging the seen pin connector when stopping in areas where no 110 volt power is available. There is nothing like getting up in the morning and finding your car battery is dead from using too much power the previous night! I will send you a wiring diagram if anyone would like it. **Bob Snyder**, Wichita, KS

**Flat Screen TV** – Almost finished with a TV project for the Scamp. A 10 x 48 inch



Photographs by S&M Blasko

shelf between the side cabinets at the rear of the Scamp supports our new 13 inch Sharp LCD Color TV (Aquos model) which rides on a 10 inch rail. Note: the TV is removed while traveling.

There is sufficient room behind the shelf to access or remove the curtains. The TV runs on 12VDC (2.5 Amperes) or 120VAC. We will probably run the TV on 12VDC. The purpose of the rail is to allow the TV to have swivel capability for individual viewing. The shelf will easily handle a DVD player. I still haven't decided



on DVD player as yet. In order to support an 8 pound TV, I had to remove the wood screws that pass through the roof to the rear cabinets and replace them with machine bolts, washers and nuts. There were other wood screws that I replaced with machine bolts, etc.

I also installed a Cable-TV box on the outside and managed to run the cable behind the rat fur at the rear corner (inside the Scamp) to the inside of rear cabinet. Several more things to do before I proclaim the project finished. Make the 12VDC connection less visible and decide whether I should enclose the rail system. BTW, a 340 pound capacity pulley travels on the 3/8 inch diameter rail. This will last longer than this klugemeister. **Steve and Mary Blasko**, Glendora, NJ

**Sway Bar Hint** – Removal of clips from sway bars is much easier when a 4-inch piece of 1/4-inch nylon air line is inserted over the rounded portion of the clip. This will keep the clip from moving into the rounded portion. The 1/4-inch nylon air line is available by the foot at most auto parts stores. However, any shop that does heavy truck work will have a piece of scrap around they may give you. When installing the air line, it must be warmed-up a bit to facilitate going around the clip's radius. I think that any plastic tubing that would fit snugly over the clip would be OK, but nylon air line is super tough! **Bill Campbell**, New Wilmington, PA.

**Ice Fishing Scamp** – This 1981 13-foot Scamp is in very nice condition.



It is equipped with a 2 burner LP stove, 3-way refrigerator and, a porta-potty. What else could an ice fisherman want? How about the ability to fish

## SOI Web Site Report

**Dan Meyer**, the SOI Webmaster, sends the following report during the time for which he has managed the SOI Website.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Hits</u>	<u>Hits/Day</u>	<u>Total Visitors</u>	<u>Visitors/Day</u>
2004	545,321	1,613	54,129	160
2005	272,595	1,267	40,285	187
2006		1,229		192

through the ice without ever leaving the Scamp? This one has been professionally converted to a special "ice shanty" with 4 holes in the floor. Submitted by **Doris Lawson**, Burlington, IA.

### Editor (con't) from page 2

we've met across the U.S. and Canada that have a Scamp (or some other fiberglass egg). They are the most wonderful folks you would ever hope to know!

However, there comes a time to "move on" and try something new. For me that time has arrived. There are a whole range of items I still have on my "short list" of things to do. So, this will be my last year to serve as editor for the *SOI News*. The organization is strong and many others have assumed leadership roles in various aspects of Scamp Owners International. I certainly hope that one (or more) of our 800 plus members will pick up the mantle of editor. Please let me know. *Rod*

## Future ScampCamps

**2006 Alaska Adventure** - June 1 to July 12, 2006. **Jack and Alice Vernezze** 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 Vernezze**, E-mail: [ezzeal@bellsouth.net](mailto: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](mailto:BarbarasPottery@aol.com). or 563-588-9211

**ScampCamp 2007** - February 6-10, 2007 (Tues-Fri) at Sebring, Florida is planned for our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual ScampCamp at Highlands Hammock State Park. a Early Bird Night on the 5<sup>th</sup> and a special activity is being planned. An agenda will be sent to everyone that has email. 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](mailto:ezzeal@bellsouth.net) or PH: 321-773-2676. Alice needs 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?

**Southeast Campout** - May 19 to 21, 2006 at Bald Mountain Park, GA. Make your reservation by calling 1-706-896-2274 Tue-Thu 10 am-2 pm before April 1<sup>st</sup>. Last year's rates were \$21.25 per night for a back in site and \$25.50 per night for a pull through and a \$25 deposit is required. Tell them you are a "Fiberglass RVer" as a special rate may apply. The park's web site is <http://www.baldmountainpark.com>. Submitted by **Benita Ellena**

