

SOI News



Winter 2006

Scamp Owners International

Volume VIII Number 1



The Editor's 1998 5th Wheel and Dodge Dakota along the Rim Rock Drive in Colorado National Monument along I-70 in western Colorado. See page 7. Photograph by S.K. Cranson

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From the Editor's Desk

The Winter Season is here for those SOI Members who live where snow falls. Many of us have had enough cold weather, slush, overcast skies – it's time to head for warmer places. As



Rod Cranson
Editor

*Rod preparing field notes for the 3rd Edition of **Crater Lake – Gem of the Cascades** with Llao Rock in the distance.*

you read this issue, Sharon and I are likely on our way to Arizona. During January, we will be volunteering at the Wycliffe Associates facility near Tucson. Many of you will also be heading south, some to Florida to attend ScampCamp 2006. This is the first year we will miss that gathering, but I know it will be a great time!

The 2005 Fall issue was mailed to nearly 260 active SOI Members – an all time high. It was just 7 years ago – January, 1999 – that the idea of a Scamp owners newsletter was “hatched” at Highlands Hammock State Park near Sebring, Florida. This year's 2006 ScampCamp is the eighth annual gathering at the park.

Congratulations to long-time SOI Members Mr. and Mrs. **Earl Brown** of Sabastian, Florida. They were married on June 2, 2005. Mrs. Brown (formerly **Mary Bennett**) reports that the wedding occurred during a trip in their Scamp. I wonder if that may be a first?

Scamp Owners International was established to share information and experiences among the Scamp owners. The *SOI News* depends on contributions from SOI members, the editor cannot provide everything that appears in the newsletter. In the past, I have received great contributions for inclusion in the newsletter ranging from modifications/changes to travel experiences. These have been the mainstay for our newsletter over the seven years since

SOI began. You may think that “you have nothing of interest to offer,” but that is far from the truth. Something as simple as a favorite camping experience or campground may be useful to another SOI member. Of course, the most popular topic is modifications/changes that Scamp owners have made to their trailer. Think over what you've done with or to your scamp during the last year and share something with your fellow SOI members.

I just received some sad news from **Ruth Koerber** of Dearborn, Michigan. Ruth and her husband, **Andrew**, have been SOI members for many years. Andrew passed away on November 26, 2005.

Much of our fall was dedicated to promoting my book, *Crater Lake – Gem of the Cascades*. Examination copies were sent to many people hoping for a review or two in newspapers and magazines. In addition, potential wholesale buyers received a copy, especially those at Crater Lake National Park in Oregon. I am also hoping for a good mail order response.

If you are going to be in the southwest this winter, perhaps we will cross paths. Sharon and I expect to be traveling throughout Arizona, southeastern California and, perhaps, the Baja Peninsula of Mexico. Keep watch for us!

Rod

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Call of the Scamp

by

Debra Foster and Jill Holmes
Hastings, MN

My love of camping began as a child when my dad made a pop-up camper. Yes, you read that correctly — he MADE our camper. He molded a fiberglass top, sewed canvas with screens, designed a system for the pullouts, and even cut foam cushions and covered them with Naugahyde. He mounted all this on a trailer frame that he welded and boxed himself. If you think your Scamp attracts a lot of attention in an RV park full of big rigs, you should have seen the people line up at our campsites to take a look at that pop-up.

We raised our children tent camping — learning to dress while lying on our backs on an air mattress and sleeping bag. Then, in 2001, we bought a Palomino pop-up. We loved that pop-up, but every year when we went to the Minnesota State Fair, we heard *The Call of the Scamp*. We'd stop by the Scamp display, tour those adorable little eggs, look at each other and ask, "What do you think?" It was inevitable. In May of 2004, we drove to Backus and took delivery of a 16-footer. Now, spring through autumn, every spare moment we have is spent exploring Minnesota's wonderful state parks in our Scamp.

Most of our Scamping is done with



Debra and Jill relaxing with their Scamp.

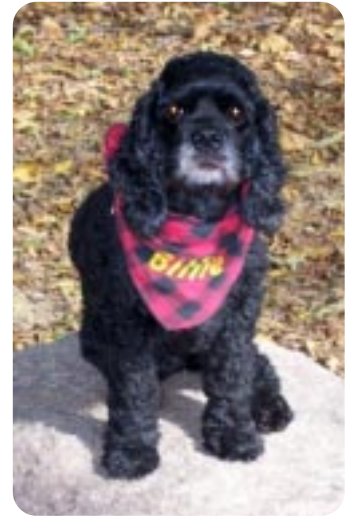
our black cocker spaniel, Billie Jo Cocker. She fancies herself as quite the little camp pup and her hiking abilities could put a mountain goat to shame. Camping with a cocker has taught us a couple of valuable lessons. We have discovered just how many burrs per square inch can get tangled in cocker spaniel fur. We have also learned that small black cocker spaniels can move faster than the speed of light when it comes to snatching a hot dog off a roasting stick. For most campers, keeping food from raccoons is an issue. For us, it's keeping our share of the rations from Billie!

Last summer, we took our grandson on his first camping adventure. You haven't truly experienced camping until you rediscover acorns and caterpillars though the wonder in the eyes of a three-year old. We also discovered how many acorns and caterpillars could be stuffed into a three-year old's pockets.

When friends ask about our camper, we tell them it has a kitchen, dining room, living room, bedroom, and bath — all in one 13 foot by 6½ foot room. We had it built with the chesterfield sofa that converts into bunk beds for the grand kids (a spare bedroom!).

Being two women, accessorizing our Scamp is very important. We've selected a Minnesota north woods bear/moose theme for our décor, have replaced the curtains, cabinet handles, and have even carried the bear and moose through to our towels, rugs, place mats and dishes. Living in Minnesota, there seems to be no end to the bear/moose accouterment. We are limited only by the space available in a 16-foot Scamp.

We attended our first ScampCamp in September of 2004 in Clear Lake, Iowa, and partook of our first ever



Billy Jo Cocker

Photographs by D.Foster & J. Holmes



Debra and Jill have created a Bear and Moose décor in their Scamp





Debra and Jill's table and bench seats in their 16-foot Scamp.

Scamp potluck. We were truly thrilled and amazed at the “dishes to pass” which were prepared in the confines of those little eggs.

This summer, we tested our Scamp's seaworthiness when she took her maiden voyage on a ferry to Madeline Island, Wisconsin. We also attended our second ScampCamp at Devil's Lake State Park in Wisconsin.

We have accommodated many requests for tours of our Scamp, including those made by owners of big rigs who chuckle and tell us that our trailer would fit inside the living room of their RV with room to spare.

We look forward to many more years of Scamping, including retirement, possibly as snowbirds in a 5th wheel Scamp.

Flea Market ScampCamps

After we left Rod and Sharon Cranson in Shipshewana, we headed for Winesburg, Ohio to meet up with Dick and Barb Bell at the Amish Country Campsite. We arrived around 5 pm on October 12 (Wednesday) and the Bells greeted us as we drove in. After setting up camp we left with them for a buffet dinner at a nearby Amish restaurant.

The next day Dick drove us to see the Wendell August Forge in Berlin and gave us a chance to see all the neat shops in the downtown

area that we would visit on Friday. Our next stop was the huge Holmes County Amish Flea Market in Walnut Creek. There were over 500 booths of crafts, candy, furniture, etc. This place was awesome! After an exhausting day of shopping, it was time to eat again. Another buffet? Why not?

Since we were having so much fun, the fellows decided to go to the office and sign us up for another night. With the weekend approaching, both of us had to relinquish our campsites, so we agreed to move to the hilltop overlooking the campground. We were near the barn, housing Mama Kitty and her babies, but still had water and electricity.

We found a great parking spot in downtown Berlin on Friday. The fellows suggested that we split up so they could do “guy stuff.” The men saw the entire town in three hours and had extra time to enjoy pumpkin ice cream and do some serious bench sitting. The ladies saw one shop – Sol's. It was unbelievable: three floors of crafts in each of two buildings. Dinner that night was all you could eat fish, and guess who got the leftovers – Mama Kitty and her babies! The firewood was free and plentiful, so we had a roaring fire for hours along with great conversation.

We certainly had a wonderful time with the Cransons and the Bells. Even though these Scamp get-togethers were small, they were just what we needed for our last outing of 2005. **Jack and Judy Freed**, Punxsutawney, PA

New York Thanks

The following notes are in appreciation for the SOI Members who planned and hosted the New York ScampCamp in September.

Thanks for planning the Letchworth ScampCamp. The area is beautiful, and



Jack and Judy Freed (L) and Barb and Dick Bell are enthusiastic flea market “junkies!”

of course I enjoyed meeting old friends and making new ones. A couple I know from the guitar group I sing with at church saw my pictures, and are envious of my trip. He said he doesn't do anything with his retirement, and at least I am out doing something.

Sorry, to leave so abruptly on Friday. I hope those of you who stayed had another good day. The weather forecast I heard had said the rain would continue through Saturday, and that there would be fog on Saturday. Since I had to move to a different camp site anyway, I thought I would just go ahead and head home. I had memories of several long steep hills on the way there, which I didn't want to tackle in fog. Well, going back the hills weren't nearly as steep as I remembered them! It helps not to be in a hurry, and to have daylight. I did meet a little fog, but it wasn't low on the road, and visibility was good.

I did have one nice experience on the way home. I stopped at a campground in Northeast, PA, for the night. The owner said he had a spot for me, with electric and water. The office was closed, so he quoted me a very low price (less than 1/2 of what I expected to pay), as long as I paid cash and didn't want a receipt. They have a lot of "seasonal" campers, and a Campers Association. The Association was having a camp dinner and party, complete with a DJ and loud music, to celebrate the end of the season. The owner invited me to join them for chicken wings, salad, and beer, at no charge, and I did (minus the beer). What a lucky find!

I've been busy since I got home, but I finally got a chance to give my Scamp a much needed bath. I took it to a coin-operated car wash, with RV stalls, yesterday, and washed the Scamp and my van. Today, I gave it a finishing hand wash, here at home, and finished it off with the

Black Streak remover. It does look better, so much so that my neighbor asked if I was going to have it in a show! It really needed it, but this is the first chance I have had to do it this summer. (Tomorrow, I hope to put some Silicone around one or two rivets that appear to be causing a leak in an overhead cupboard, in the back, curbside corner.)

One problem. My granddaughter has postponed her wedding in MO until September. 30, 2006. Darn! I will probably have to miss the Letchworth ScampCamp next year. Unless she and her fiancé change their mind again.

Thanks again, for a great ScampCamp. I hope to meet up with you and other Scampers again before too long. **June Ahrens**, Cincinnati, OH.

Thanks for taking the time to organize the Letchworth Scamp Camp. Bill and I are sorry we didn't have the opportunity to introduce ourselves in person or to say good bye. We certainly had good weather for outdoor activities. The natural beauty, nice facilities, and excellent staff at Letchworth State Park were a real treat.

We were very excited to catch a total of four sittings of Scamps in the vicinity of Coudersport during July and August. Three 13 footers, one with a strap running from the upper door hinge to the wheel well, and one fifth wheel. In previous years we've only seen one or two Scamps ever.

We really looked forward to meeting other Scampers and learning from those with more experience about Scamp maintenance and improvements. We had a great summer working on our Scamp. Our '84, 13 footer was sold as surplus from the military and it had gotten rusty and mildewed with the passage of time. Our make-over at this point includes rust

removal and weather coating the undercarriage, restoring the original jack, installing two propane tanks on the tongue, installing bearing buddies and brakes on the wheels and adjusting the door so it wouldn't pop open.

Our restoration efforts moved upward to include installing a replacement roof vent which had been missing for many years, a second fan roof vent, and an awning. Inside we added a microwave over the stove, installed a new stove, a small electric water heater and pump for hot and cold running water, a flush toilet over the wheel well replacing the original hangup clothing closet, automatic switch over from gas to electric heating when connected to 120V, a small electric 120AC refrigerator to run automatically on AC or 12V DC, and an internal battery so all the electric appliances can run on AC or DC as needed. These installations still allow for the use of all the original beds and some of the original storage compartments for tools and repair parts.

Our main objective in attending a Scamp Camp was to see the external details of current 13 foot Scamps and this was accomplished to our great satisfaction. We are very pleased to report that the Scamp Camp gave us the opportunity to have a successful test run and as it turned out some very relaxed and long overdue visiting time with family in nearby Batavia NY.

We look forward to the possibility of a future meeting by chance at some scenic spot or a roadside rest area with a fellow Scamper someday. Perhaps we will then have a chance to ask some of the big and small questions that arise when pulling a Scamp and living in a confined space. Best wishes to all in their travels. **Lydia** and **Bill Storey**, Cloudersport, PA.

ScampCamp Dubuque, Iowa

September 25 - 29, 2006 We already have 25 reservations made of the 35 possible. The campground has 52 sites total - - so, for peace of mind, if you have not done it already, send your \$2 reservation fee immediately to Barbara Collins. After the 35 sites are gone the other 17 sites are on a "first come - first served" basis.

SOI site reservations have been made for Monday, September 25 through the morning of Friday, September 29. (4 nights X \$12 = \$48 due on day of arrival). Any arrivals before Monday the 25th will be "first come - first serve." But once you're there you can stay 14 days. The county doesn't seem to care when you leave, just your arrival date. They suggest that anyone coming early, to do so either Wednesday, September 20th or Sunday, September 24th. This campground is very popular with groups who reserve sites a year in advance for most weekends (especially during autumn leaf color time). All sites have electricity and water. A dump station, showers and flush toilets are available.

Proposed Program:

Monday: Arrivals - 5:30 pm Introductions and Potluck (main course courtesy of hosts). Bring a dish to pass, table service and drink. Q/A of the Dubuque area.

Tuesday: Group photo, Tour of Scamps, Tech Meeting, Nature walk/crafts.

Wednesday: Free Day to explore the Dubuque area. 2½ Hour Dinner Cruise with prime rib/chicken dinner and entertainment (\$36) on the "Spirit of Dubuque" paddle wheeler. We must know no later than the week before the cruise (by September. 20, 2006) if you want to do this dinner cruise. Thanks for your timely consideration.

Thursday: Free Day to explore

Dubuque area. Supper Potluck and Fun evening at camp.

Friday: Farewell Breakfast (courtesy of hosts).

What to bring to make the Dubuque ScampCamp Fun, Fun, Fun: "White elephants" - Musical instruments - colored yarn scraps - information to share about those little things you have done to/with your Scamp to make life easier (a printable copy of "how to" would be helpful. We'll make copies).

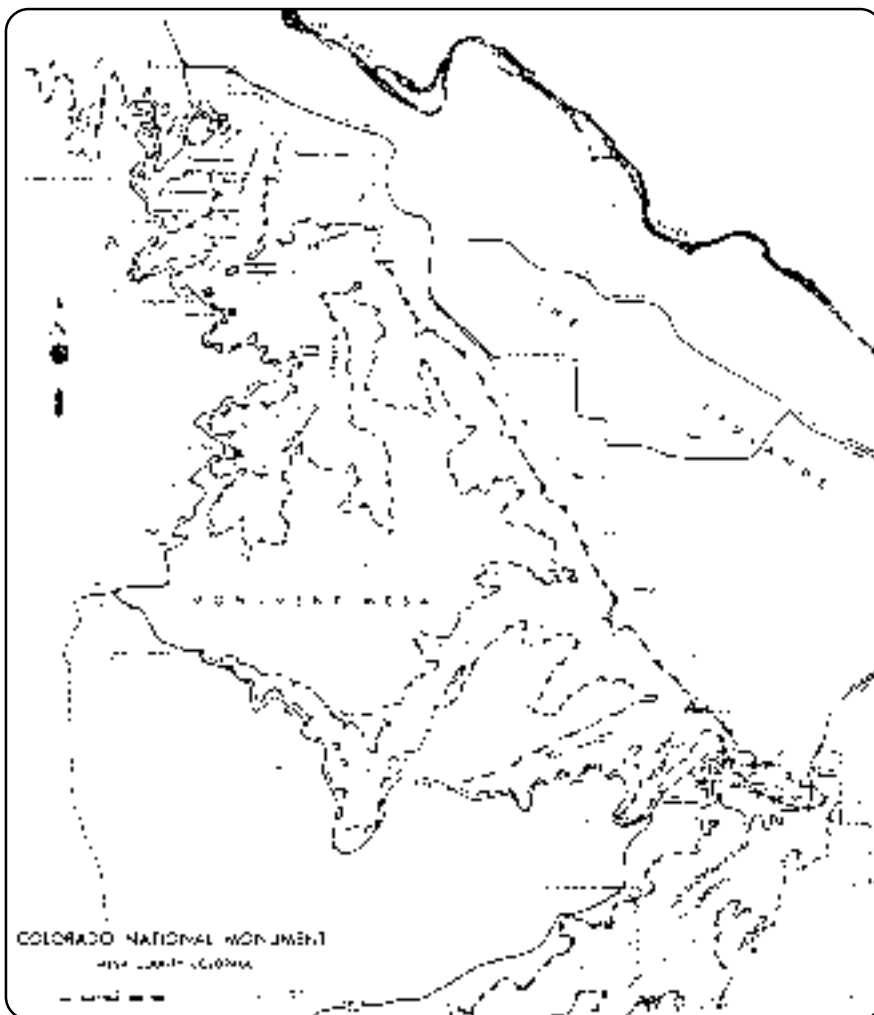
Good Cheer! More details will be coming in Summer of 2006 to all who have made reservations.

CONTACT: Barbara Collins - 11092 Mound View Rd. - Dubuque, IA 52003 PH: 563 - 588 - 9211 E-mail: Barbaraspottery@AOL.com

Great Parks

Colorado National Monument

Colorado National Monument tends to sneak up on you as you motor along I-70 west of Grand Junction, Colorado. It preserves one of the grand landscapes of the American west near the Utah–Colorado border. The towering rock masses sculpted into this plateau and canyon country covers some 32 mi² (km²). The high country of Colorado National Monument rises some 2,000 feet (625 meters) above the Colorado River which flows in a wide Grand Valley paralleling the monument along the northeast. John Otto began exploring and building trails into the canyons and mesas starting in 1906 and he was instrumental in getting the monument established. With great foresight by the U.S. Government, it was created as a



national monument in 1911 while the area was still sparsely populated.

The monument is situated along the edge of the Uncompahgre Uplift, part of the much larger Colorado Plateau Province. This province covers portions of four states, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah. It also includes some of the most fascinating geological scenery in the world including several other national parks; Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Arches. It is a semi-desert environment with magnificent views - sometimes called "standing up country."

This map is from "The Geologica Story of Colorado National Monument" by S.W. Lohman, 1965





Visitor Center at Colorado National Monument.

Photographs by K R. Cranson

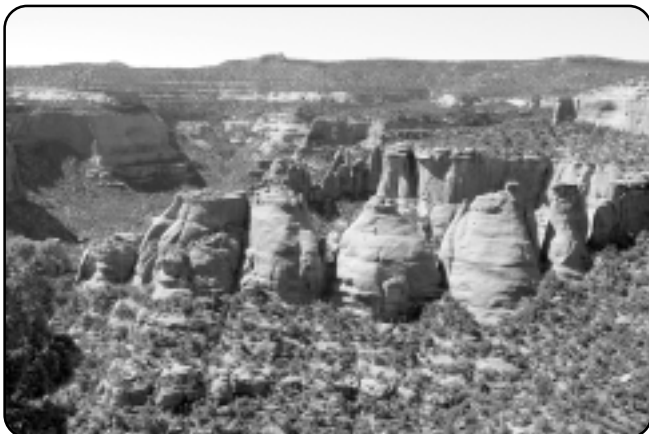
The Rim Rock Drive, the main road running the length of the monument, began in 1931 and now takes visitors up on top of the plateau for excellent views of the canyons, vertical cliff walls, and the natural rock sculptures eroded into the underlying rock. The views on such a grand scale can be overpowering! Down in the canyons things look much different, but just as dramatic. Hiking along the canyon floor provides a more 'personal' experience, not only with the scenery, but with the vegetation and wildlife as well.



Independent Monument rises 450 feet in one of the large erosional valleys.

There are 14 trails, 8 short (0.25 to 1.75 miles or less) and 6 long (up to 8.5 miles) that allows visitors to explore overlooks and the backcountry of Colorado National Monument. Most of the short walks head along the Rim Rock Drive while the longer ones take the hiker or horseback riders along the bottom of the numerous canyons. Other popular activities include cross-country skiing, biking, and rock climbing, although wheeled or motorized vehicles are not permitted on

trails. The formation of Colorado National Monument reflects the geological history of the Colorado Plateau. Over a long period of time a great thickness of sediments was deposited over the region on the underlying and much older Precambrian rock. These sediments were eventually compacted into solid rock. A significant portion of these rocks are sandstones that are resistant to erosion resulting in the deep canyons formed throughout the monument as the surface rose during mountain building. The spectacular erosional features, like Independence Monument, are also formed by sculpturing of the sandstone formations as the canyons were deepened.



The Coke Ovens, these fascinating erosional features have formed in the Triassic Wingate Sandstone.



This Collared Lizard is one of the many desert animals that inhabit the monument.

trails.

A modern visitor center is located on the rim with an overlook of one of the major canyons and near two of the shorter trails. Like most national park campgrounds, Colorado National Monument's campground is rather primitive – there are no hook-ups or showers. The sites are scattered among the juniper and pinyon pines along Rim Rock Drive not far from the Visitor Center. Additional information is available for Colorado National Monument at: Fruita, CO 81521-9530, PH: 970-858-3617 or www.nps.gov/colm.

**If you have no money,
be polite.**
Danish Proverb

SOI Mailbag

NY ScampCamp & More - . . .

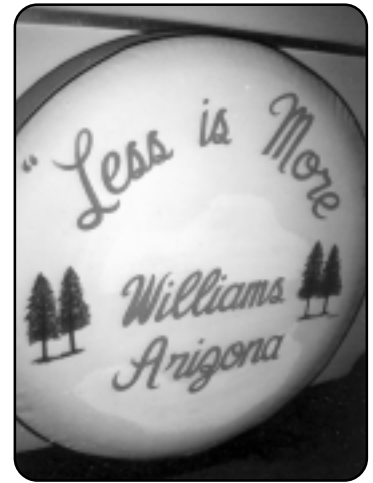
This was the first ScampCamp we've been to in quite awhile. It was fun but we missed seeing more of the "old gang." We had been visiting our daughter and 2 grandsons at Fort Drum (Watertown, NY) the 2 weeks prior to the rally, so it worked out great for us to take that in on our way home. In a couple weeks we will be off to Gulf Shores again. Plan to be in the State Park this year. It has lost almost all of its vegetation and hasn't reconstructed the damages activities building, but all the sites have been paved and the utilities upgraded. Sewer at all sites also. . . . We saw the **Bells** at a dulcimer festival in Midland (MI) in late August. There were 2 other Scamps and a Boler there. **Doug and Ginny Smith**, Garden, MI.

Grand Canyon - I just received the *SOI News* for Fall of 2005, and I'll enjoy reading it from cover to cover as always. I'm sorry you didn't stop by this past summer when you visited the Grand Canyon, but sure glad you had a great time and your "Rim to Rim" article is *outstanding*. Because you and your wife enjoyed the Grand Canyon experience so much, I thought I'd send you a copy of my novel "Grand Canyon" which is one of four national parks novels I wrote for a NYS publisher several years ago. I've been a western and historical novelist for 25 years and GC is one of my favorites and quite historical as you will note if you read the Chronology and Author's Note.

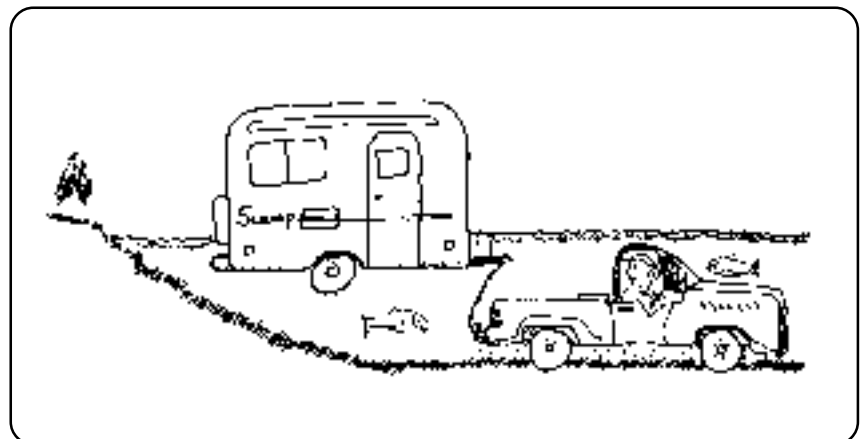
. . . Put Jane and I down as Scamp Partners. We have a nice two-acre horse pasture with tall pines, but no utilities on it yet and it's right close to the town of Williams, "Gateway to the Grand Canyon." . . . We'll be going to Quartzite for a few

days for the amazing Rock and Gem show/giant swap meet in January. And, for heavens sakes, next time you (or other SOI Members) come to see the magnificent Grand Canyon, please stop by! Oh, and I thought you might enjoy a picture of the spare tire cover we have on our new 13-foot (Scamp). When the big gas guzzler RV'ers chug by, they either laugh . . . or cry. **Gary and Jane McCarthy**, Williams, AZ

Alaska - We traveled to Alaska from Elkhart, In. We left May 19th 2001 with our 16 ft Scamp. We pulled it with a 98 Buick La Sabre. We traveled up the Cassier Highway and thoroughly enjoyed our trip. Saw many bears just sitting along the road staring at us as we were staring at them. I called Smithers, BC to be sure that gas stations were open as we get about 285 miles on a full tank of gas. We stayed 29 nights in our trailer and drove over 4000 miles. The trailer had no problems but on the way back our car had a **BIG** problem and we stayed at Jamestown, SD and 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 II. Alaska is a beautiful state. Should you go you will never regret the



Gary and Jane McCarthy's spare tire cover on their 2005 16-foot Scamp.
Photograph by G. McCarthy



scenery, the wild life and the towns that you go through. **Jan and Bob Rowits**

Gas Prices - . . . With the crazy gas prices this year, they kept me closer to home. I had planned on making both the Nebraska in June and the Wisconsin Dells in August, but due to the high cost of gas, I canceled both. Still had fun at Two Harbors, Minnesota in late August. I hope to make Dubuque, Iowa gathering next September. Keep up the good work. **Charlie Rike**, Pine City, MN.



Leon's Logic

Hey! Why not share your Scamping experiences with other SOI Members in a Profile article?

Thanks to Leon Greisen, Medford, OR



"Moose" enjoying his basket with one of Dorothy's llama wool hats. Photographs by S. K. and K. R. Cranson

SOI Profile

Richard and Dorothy Tate West Bloomfield, Michigan

The first thing you might notice when you visit the Tate's 2003 5th Wheel Scamp is the llama logo on the side of their Ford pickup tow vehicle. Dorothy is active in raising llamas and spends time in Howell at the farm caring for the animals. In addition, she also spins and makes many items from their wool. If the llama logo doesn't catch your attention, their huge cat will. He is a Maine Coon breed named "Moose" and is often seen accompanying the Tate's on a walk or just "hanging" around outside their Scamp. He is a very friendly fellow.

Richard and Dorothy wanted a molded fiberglass trailer, so they picked up a 13-foot U-Haul camper and renamed it "We-Hall." Thought it was made for two campers, one of them could not be Dorothy! Within six months they were in Backus, Minnesota to place an order for a new 5th wheel. That was 2002 and by the time their Scamp was done, it was a 2003 model. Then it

was time for Richard to go to work on some modifications and changes. That's the way he spends his time.

To make the set-up easier, he

has added an outside access door to get into the storage area under the rear bench seat where some of the set-up gear can be stashed. The sewer hose is now stored in a square steel rear bumper he added. Finally, Richard replaced the rear jacks with a crank down type. To smooth out the Scamps ride while towing, shocks have been added to the torsion suspension.

Inside there are a number of additions and changes. The original combination stove top/oven was replaced with a combination convection/microwave over that features a pizo ignitor. A 6cubic foot 110 volt (no propane) refrigerator powered through an inverter was added. The factory dinning table was rebuilt into a pedestal design. A satellite TV and CD/DCD player, as well as a medicine cabinet were also added. Richard has made many other minor changes or modifications.

Richard went to engineering school and worked as a safety engineer for three years, then started an independent service. This required a great deal of travel. To get away from being away so much, he gave up the safety service and they started a mailing service. Dorothy became the company's President and handled the business end while Richard took care of the computers and selling.



Dorothy and Richard at ScampCamp 2005.



Dorothy demonstrates her llama wool hats at the Blue Ridge Scampcamp.

Dorothy trained as a medical technician and worked for a local doctor until the children came along. Later, when the children were older, she joined Tate Custom Mailing until the business was sold in 2002 when they retired.

Both of the Tate's attended Redford High School in Detroit, but did not know one another – even though Richard knew Dorothy's brother. They met three years later at church and started dating. They were married in 1955, although it seems like yesterday. They have three children, two girls, Tina and Kathy, and a boy, Cullen, who also has a 5th wheel Scamp. All are married and live near the Tate's. Kathy and her husband, Bruce, have two boys while Cullen and Christy also have two boys. Tina and Dale have no children, but keep 15 llamas on their farm in Howell.

Since retiring, Richard and Dorothy spend about six months each year in their Scamp. Two-thirds of this time, during the winter months, is in the south. In warmer weather they go to llama shows, ScampCamps, Tin Can Tourists rallies, a Boler rally in Canada, or just touring. During the 2006 winter season, they are planning to attend two Tin Can Rallies and ScampCamp 2006 in Florida. Then, it is on to the Grand Canyon.

Modifications & Changes

Some time ago the cover on my electrical cable outlet broke off (Photo 1). I decided to replace the factory installed housing with a larger one (Photo 2) that had a locking door. It was placed in the same location to take advantage of the existing opening in the fiberglass. Of course, a larger opening had to be cut to accommodate the new housing. This required careful planning and I made a templet to insure the new opening would be the correct size in the right place.

Cutting the new opening was a bit tricky due to the location of the bench seat inside the Scamp and the clearance light on the outside. Establishing the location for cutting the new opening right is the most critical aspect of the entire procedure – be careful and patient. Follow the old saying “measure twice and cut once,” in my case I measured many times before cutting. Using the templet to location the position of the new opening, it was necessary to move the clearance light to a lower position (Photo 3). Masking tape was placed on the fiberglass surface so lines for cutting could be marked using the templet. This procedure helps in producing a smooth edge when the fiberglass is cut.

I used a saber saw to cut the opening as close to the correct size as possible and finished fitting using a file (Photo 4). Once the new housing is fit into the open-



Photo 1 - The original power cord outlet housing with broken flap after removal from Scamp.

Photographs by K R. Cranson



Photo 2 - The new power cord housing with a locking door. The black wooden box on right fits into the back of the plastic housing and is secured with short screws. The part with the power cord hole is in two pieces. After the housing is installed with one side in place, the power cord is pass through and the second side secured in place. The three small wooden strips are sized and fitted to go inside the trailer to receive the screws used to mount the housing to the Scamp's fiberglass skin.

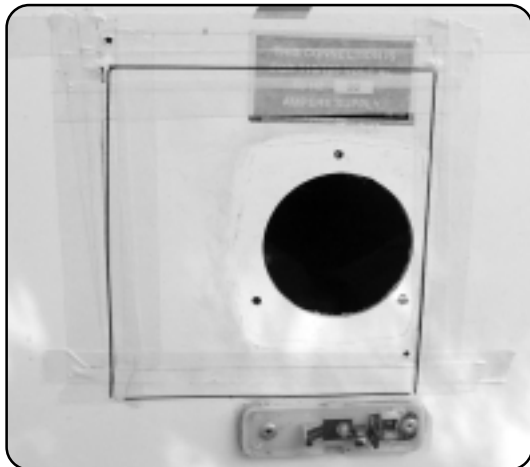


Photo 3 - With the old power cord housing removed, cut line for the new housing was marked out using a template. Note the clearance light is too close and must be moved down.



Photo 4 - The hole has been cut, the clearance light moved down and the holes drilled for the mounting screws to secure the housing.



ing, mark the location for the securing screws and drill the necessary holes. I used 10 x 3/4 inch stainless steel sheet metal screws to avoid future rusting. When everything is ready for final assembly, be sure to use plenty of good quality waterproof caulking to insure a good seal. I used a water based caulking that cleaned up easily after the housing was installed and secured.

When I found that the clearance light had to be moved, I drilled out the pop rivets that secured the existing light foundation in place. In the process, the foundation was broken and I had to get a new clearance light assembly to replace it. My Scamp used a Bargman Clearance Light #99 (Photo 5) series and I found a replacement at my local RV service company (about \$4). **K R. Cranson**, Lansing, MI

Photo 5 - This shows the power cable after the housing is mounted with the stainless steel screws. The black wooden box shown in Photo 2 closes off the inside of the outside housing allowing room to store the power cable when the door is closed.



Photo 6 - Finished power cord housing installation and clearance light position.

Tech Corner

Running Gear - When your trailer is not being used it should be stored properly. With Scamps, it is important to take some or all of the weight off the torsion suspension system. The rubber members within the axle will become fatigued if stored with all the trailer weight on the wheels. In addition, the tires should not be in contact with concrete. Place some material (such as wood) under the tires, or get the tires off the ground surface.

There are also some instructions for getting the weight off the axle. Dexter recommends that you do not jack up the trailer on the suspension components because there is always the potential for damage. Bent hangers or axle tubes can cause bad axle alignment resulting in bad tire wear. Also, some Scamps do not use Dexter axles and these axle suspension components may or may not be strong enough to support the trailer's weight. Therefore, it is best to take



the conservative approach by jacking up only on the trailer frame.

Bearings and Brakes - A common problem with RVs is bearing and brake failure. A recent note in *Trailer Life* (December 2005) reported a situation that is instructive for maintaining these critical components. An appealing apparent solution is to use some kind of "self lubricating" device like bearing buddies or EZ-Lube hubs (as in the article). These allow or promote getting grease into the bearing without removing the wheels and tires. Here is the situation as reported in TrailerLife's RV Clinic.

"... my 2002 fifth-wheel trailer had them (Ez-Lube hubs) and I over-greased them so much that everything except the drums had to be replaced. When I saw the inside of the drum, there was at least 3/8-inch of grease packed on and in everything. The repair shop that fixed my unit said if you travel about 10,000 or 12,000 miles per year, they (the bearing) should be greased every two years, not twice a year as I was doing." It is not possible to determine when or how much grease is needed, and there is a tendency to over lubricate. After all, if grease is good, more grease is better!

Here is the response given by one of the writers. "I personally prefer wheel bearings with solid caps that must be removed to add grease, partly for this reason. Without removing the caps and manually inspecting the bearings and brakes, you cannot be sure of tire condition, or the amount of grease present. Electric trailer brakes tend to need more-frequent attention than self-adjusting automotive drum brakes. As you found out, a lot can go wrong in two years. I recommend annual inspection and re-packing at the beginning of the season, even if you've towed less than 10,000 miles."

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, 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). 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.



The SOI Bird hopes you will be able to attend one of the ScampCamps this year!

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 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



Judy and Jack Freed check out an Amish one-horse power "automobile," a common form of transportation in the Shipshewana area..

Shipshewana from page 16

were in the 1680s and three ship loads made the trip from Europe in 1717. Shortly after William Penn established the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, both Amish and Minnonites arrived to set up farming settlements. Landcaster County, named for an early family named Landus, is perhaps the most famous of these communities. The good soils of northern Indiana, along with similar areas in several other states, attracted the Amish and Minnonites. They brought their culture and customs which is prominently displayed in the area, including the Shipshewana Flea Market.

The flea market vendors offer everything from antiques to wrapping paper and just about anything in between. It matters little what your interests are or what you may need, or want, it is quite likely to be available in one of the vendor booths at Shipshewana. Some of the more bazar items



This fall harvest display illustrates that visitors will find some type of festival during any season in the Shipshewana area.

include; bird cages, coloring books, flag poles, gazebos, hanging ornaments, magnetic pain relief, organic herbs and spices, pine trees, wind chimes, and wind socks.

Much of Shipshewana’s charming downtown has been developed with over 100 quaint shops specializing in arts and crafts. In addition, all kinds of quality oak and cherry furniture are a specialty in many shops constructed by the talented Amish wood workers. A fascinating introduction to Amish history and lifestyle is found just south of town at the Menno-Hof Learning center. Located in an Amish built barn, this center features the Amish story, told with multi-image presentations, historical sketches, and colorful displays.

Another fascinating activity is the buggy rides around Shipshewana and the area. There are three tour options, ranging from 15 minutes around town to an hour in the country. On the town tour a guide will narrate the history of this unique community. Both the half hour and hour rides take visitors into farmlands and the Amish farms along the back roads surrounding Shipshewana. Some of the longer tours have the opportunity to watch milking time and calf feeding at a local dairy farm.

Another way to experience the unusual and fascinating culture and customs



Rod and Sharon Cranson, and Judy and Jack Freed at the Shipshewana Flea Market booth location map.

of this part of Indiana is to simply drive the back roads. Look for signs in the yards and you will find “cottage” shops offering all types of furniture, crafts, baked goods, among many other items. These are offered by the artisans who actually made them and you may be able to visit their shops or kitchens. Also, by visiting some of the smaller towns, you may find one of the numerous local festivals – there are nearly 50 planned throughout the year.

Finally, for those interested in historical aspects of the area, a Heritage Trail has been established for Elkhart and LaGrange Counties. It connects Shipshewana with the other larger cities/towns in the region; Middlebury, Goshen, Elkhart, and Nappanee. Of course, each of these communities offers interesting craft shops and great places to eat, along with many other attractions.

Shipshewana would make a great destination for a future ScampCamp and such a gathering has been suggested. Perhaps one or more SOI Members in that area will check on the arrangements necessary to host a future meeting? krc



Shipshewana Flea Market booths range from those in permanent buildings to displays like this one.



Merchandise displayed on this site is typical of the 1,000-plus booths at the Shipshewana Flea Market.

