

# SOI News



Spring 2008

Scamp Owners International

Volume X Number 2



*Participants of the SOI craft activity display their wreaths at the 10th Anniversary ScampCamp at Highlands Hammock State Park near Sebring, Florida. Photograph by K R. Cranson*

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## From the Editor's Desk



**Rod Cranson**

**Editor**

*Rod inspects a "high pass" in Everglades National Park. This part of Florida is one of the flattest and has the lowest elevation of any region in the United States.*

This has been quite a winter across the northern tier of states. I know that Michigan has gotten blasted with storm after storm and it has been the story in many other regions. Fortunately, we left just before New Years and have missed most of this - Florida has been wonderful. After a couple of days with **Jack** and **Alice Vernezze** in Satellite Beach, including watching Michigan beat Florida, we headed for the Everglades. That's when the bad weather really got going in the north.

Although we got a day or two of cool temperatures during our time in Florida, it was nothing compared to Michigan!

Our sojourn in Everglades National Park lasted over a week with hiking, canoeing, evening programs, and all the fun things that national parks offer. Things were quite in Flamingo as

the 2005 hurricanes (Katrina and Rita) nearly wiped out the entire area. While the campground and visitor center were open, most other facilities were either shut down or operating at a minimum level. Things were much better at the Big Pine Key Campground with lots

of activities ongoing.

After a couple of days at Collier-Seminole State Park near Naples, Florida, we headed north to Sebring and Highlands Hammock State Park. With three weeks before the 2008 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary ScampCamp, we had time to enjoy the park again - it has been three years since our last visit to this fascinating place.

ScampCamp 08 was a great success - Over a hundred SOI members joined us in calibrating the tenth anniversary of the founding of Scamp Owners International (see page 3). Many Scampers have faithfully attended this gathering each year and there were lots of first timers as well. Of the original cast, **Bob** and **Carolee Anderson**, **Bill** and **Shirley Johnson**, **Raymond** and **Evelyn Davis**, and **Rod** and **Sharon Cranson**, the Andersons and Cransons were present. On a sad note, I learned of Raymond Davis' death shortly after ScampCamp ended (see page 5 for details).

We enjoyed a few more days at Highlands Hammock after most of the Scamps had departed and then headed north to Orlando on President's Day. During the balance of February and two-thirds of March we were camped at the Wycliffe Associates RV Park southeast of Orlando. Sharon and I volunteered there for four weeks. The park has 69 sites and most of the volunteers have much larger RVs - we were easily the smallest rig in the park!

On our way north we visited friends in southern North Carolina, our son, Kurt, in Greensboro, NC, and finally the newly opened Creation Museum along I-275 southwest of Cincinnati in northern Kentucky. On our arrival in Lansing, MI, we were greeted by the remains of winter with below freezing temperatures and a fresh snowfall. Still, it was good to be back home.



*Rod and Sharon Cranson's Scamp in Everglades at the Flamingo Campground. There were few campsites occupied here.*

Rod



# ScampCamp 2008

## Tenth Anniversary

February 11-16, 2008

Over 100 SOI members and friends gathered at Highlands Hammock State Park near Sebring, Florida for their tenth annual gathering. Over 50 fiberglass "eggs" (mostly Scamps) dotted the campground for the celebration - they occupied over a third of the sites. It was fun to watch non-Scamp campers "gawking" as they wondered about all these little fiberglass trailers. Scamps began arriving several days before the official opening of the ScampCamp and by the first event on Monday evening a goodly number of SOI folks were present.

Alice and Jack Verneze organized the first activity for those early birds - a chili dump. A huge (16 quart) pot was set on an open fire and Scampers started dumping their special recipe at 5 pm. By the time everything was ready to eat the pot was full almost to the brim! It was a great feast with lots of other goodies to go with the chili. Wayne Felker, this year's



Sixty SOI 10th Anniversary Tote Bags were prepared with many goodies for each Scamp at ScampCamp 08.



The 10th Anniversary ScampCamp participants gather for the traditional group photograph.

official ScampCamp "fireman" built a great campfire to initiate the first evening of renewing friendships, making new friends and just plain chatting. No doubt, a number of world problems were resolved before SOI members began to drift back to their trailers that evening.

By the first formal activity on Tuesday, the "Getting to Know You" potluck and hot dog roast, most of the SOI Members had arrived and received their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary tote bag full of goodies. With the threat of rain, the activity was moved inside the recreation Hall. Great food, fellowship and fun was enjoyed with a special treat as Helen Moore shared her clogging talent.

In a special event the Founding Couples of Scamp Owners International were presented with "Thank you notes" from over 100 SOI members expressing their appreciation for starting this wonderful group. Sadly, only 2 of the original couples were able to make the trip, Rod and Sharon Cranson (SOI #1) and Bob &

Photographs by R. and S. Cranson



Gerry Felker stands ready to assist Kate Filer as she contributes to the early bird chili dump.



Jim Converse and Alen Schroepfer provided musical entertainment at the first evening campfire.



Wayne Felker prepares hot dogs for the "Getting To Know You" first pot luck.



Linda Freed displayed her natural wreath as an example for Scampers who participated in the craft session.



Scampers gather around to share and learn at the traditional Tech Session.

Carolee Anderson (SOI #2). The other couples, Raymond and Evelyn Davis (SOI #3) and Bill and Shirley Johnson (SOI #4) were experiencing health problems, so cards were mailed to them. The evening was closed out with a card bingo session before many returned to chat and share experiences around Wayne's campfire.

Most of the men, and several of the ladies, gathered at 9 am the next morning for the annual Tech Session hosted by Bob Anderson, Ivan Moore and Wayne Felker. This was a time to ask about problems that SOI members encountered and share solutions. A wide range of topics are always covered with the hosts and participants offering answers and ideas for specific questions. Rain threatened to delay the late morning scheduled Scamp tours, however, many opened up their umbrellas and toured anyway. After lunch visits were in full swing with lots of participants checking out modifications and changes that others have made to their trailers - always one of the favorite activities.

Wednesday evening was the weekly campground potluck and SOI members swelled the crowd to over a hundred. Another evening of great food was capped off by a "visit" to Everglades National Park with a power point presentation by Rod Cranson. SOI members Kate and Jim Filer and Rosemary Tobbe, volunteers at Highlands Hammock, organized this weekly event and do a great job in making this an annual tradition at the Sebring

ScampCamp.

Linda Freed's craft session was ready to go after the park's weekly Thursday morning coffee, donuts and hot biscuits (you would not believe how good these are!). This year's craft was an intricate special 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary project. Selection of materials for a natural wreath were completed during the first session and these were assembled in a second session on Friday afternoon. Participants then headed for an 11 am lunch at Homers in Sebring, another ScampCamp tradition.

Everyone was back at Highlands Hammock shortly after 1 pm, had their camp chair, and were ready for the Great GIVEAWAY - three large picnic tables loaded down with "valuable prizes." Alice Vernezze had a contest to select members that would have the first pick of the prizes being offered this year. About 20 completed the requirements and made their choices with others following in a raffle format. There was enough for second picks for some lucky Scampers. Bob Anderson's famous dumpster prizes were awarded next and all but one of them found a new home in someone's Scamp.

The 10 am Friday nature walk with Bob Anderson attracted over 20 Scampers. The group headed into a back country area to learn about the plants, animals and environment found within Highlands Hammock State Park. The folks that got started with the craft on Thursday continued work during the early afternoon and finished up about 3 pm. The evening's gathering featured another potluck (leftovers) and a final campfire before participants started preparations to leave.

As always, the final day of any ScampCamp is the saddest as "good-byes" must be said to so many friends. Everyone had a great time at this tenth anni-



versary gathering and most are already thinking about ScampCamp 09! Dates have been set and plans are already being made (see Future ScampCamps on page 14).

## Back Roads and Small Spaces

By Janice Springer and Bill Dahl

It was winter of 2008 and time to get out of Minnesota, we headed straight south. One of the beauties of the 16 foot Scamp is the ability to travel safely on the back roads of America. No interstates invited. So, off we went on Minnesota Hwy 71 toward Iowa and ended up on state Hwy 65 wandering the stunning back roads of Missouri, was the lone camper at Table Rock State Park outside of Branson, and then on into Louisiana.

The state parks served us well throughout, but surprises like the Acadian City park right in Lafayette popped up along the way. We were blessed with nearly no semis, no traffic, no full campgrounds, and amazing solitude for the better part of our 5000 mile round trip. We circled through Big Bend National Park in Texas and back up the side roads of New Mexico, winding our way through the crane migration in Nebraska and back to Minnesota 6 weeks later.

The focus of our trip was Big Bend, a lovely winter hang out. Dozens of bird species either spend the winter or pass through and the weather leans toward the warmer side. We watched the moon rise, then eclipse over the top of the Chisos Mountain Range and spent long warm days in the desert. There are many camp

## Raymond T. Davis 1918 - 2008

Raymond Davis was a member of the four couples that established Scamp Owners International in 1999. Raymond and his wife, Evelyn, along with three other couples, happened to be camped in their Scamps at Highlands Hammock State Park near Sebring, Florida in January of that year. The following is a portion of Raymond's obituary.

Raymond T. Davis, Jr. of Easton, died on Saturday, February 2, 2008, at the Genesis Health Care the Pines. He was 89. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, February 6, 2008, and burial was at Spring Hill Cemetery in Easton, MD.

He was born on October 17, 1918, in Easton, MD. Following graduation from high school, he attended Virginia Poly Technical Institute (now Virginia Tech) and John's Hopkins University where he received his PhD in 1945. He did basic metallurgical research in Pittsburgh, PA until 1947 when he joined Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA as a Professor of Chemistry. In 1954 Mr. Davis worked as a chemical engineer at U.S. Steel Corporation in the Pittsburgh until his retirement in the late 1970's.

He married Evelyn Edkins in 1949 and made their home in Greensboro, MD until moving to Easton in 2002. Since his retirement he and Evelyn have enjoyed traveling extensively. The Davis' had three sons and three grandchildren.

sites in Big Bend that are sweetly suited for a Scamp, but not available for anyone bigger! Candalilla Camp on the old ore road is a bit rough, but accessible;



*Candalilla Camp on the Old Ore Road*

*Photographs by J. Springer and B. Dahl*

Terlingua Abajo on the west side was a perfect fit with stunning views. Guadalupe National Park in northwest Texas is also perfect for smaller campers and has lots of hiking and history to explore.



*Terlingua Abajo, with Santa Elena Canyon Backdrop*

## A Special Thanks

One of the major surprises at ScampCamp 2008 was a shower of cards and letters from SOI Members across the country. This blizzard of over 100 messages was solicited by **Alice Vernezz** to thank the original four couples that met at Highlands Hammock State Park to start Scamp Owners International in January, 1999. Many of these arrived by E-mail while others were cards and letters sent to Alice or the original eight. Several included pictures from previous ScampCamps, at Sebring and other SOI gatherings across the country, over the past ten years and many were really creative. Here is one example from **Jerry and Bonnie Kincaid**.

### Thanks!

Listen, Scamper, and you shall hear  
Of a very significant, wonderful year,  
'Twas nineteen hundred and ninety-eight  
That some Scamp Owners plan was great.

"Why don't we all get together." they said  
And have lots of fun and then share our bread?"  
"So we'll choose Highlands Hammock in the great state of Fla  
And then to this gathering see whom we can draw.

Well, Sharon and Rod (the Cransons, that is)  
Joined with Scampers who were in on the biz.  
Anderson, Davis and Johnson were some  
Who decided that this was a great place to come

They, and maybe some others, I guess  
Began a tradition that we all can bless.  
So thanks to all the original crew  
Who started it all and made it come true.

*The "original crew" does indeed thank everyone for this amazing flood of well wishes!*

Back roads wandered by lovely and empty campgrounds all the way back home as well. Once we got north of I-40, camping traffic thinned to a trickle. Of course we were back in our long underwear too—so no big surprise. We were the lone campers at Black Mesa State Park in the panhandle of Oklahoma, and alone again the next night in Webster State Park in north central Kansas. The icing on the cake was our last long stop at Kearney Nebraska where the Sand Hill cranes stop by in the tens of thousands every spring. We were not disappointed—their ancient cries and omnipresence with the snow geese felt like being in a snow globe where the snowflakes were the birds.

It was a cooler winter in the south than it has been recently, but our Scamp remained cozy and comfortable all the way. We have made one alteration so we can dry camp longer—we have added a small propane heater that does not need any electricity. It is so efficient that some nights all we do is light the pilot light, and never turn it on any higher. We also bypassed the anxiety of opening up the water system. There were just too many nights where freezing was likely—even in south Texas (in February), so we just use the "bucket" system to rinse/use our toilet, and do our dishes outside. We were very satisfied with our 15-18 mpg-pulling the Scamp with our Toyota

Rav4. The added joy of finding some delightful local cuisine along the way only adds to our determination—back roads of America are the best.

## The Story of the SOI Traveling Bird

by Tony and Darlene Nowak  
Mt. Horeb, WI

The Winter 2008 issue of the SOI newsletter featured a picture of the SOI bird being handed over to Tony and Darlene Nowak from Deb Foster and Jill Holmes. Some of you may be wondering what this is all about. The SOI bird was conceived in the imagination of Kurt Cranson (yes, the son of our illustrious newsletter creator) in the 1980s, saved for posterity in Kurt's sketches, and hatched in clay by artist Barb Collins in



*SOI Bird going for a swim with his/her lifejacket in the St. Croix River at Wild River State Park (ceramic SOI birds aren't an aquatic species, you know!).*

*Photograph by D. Foster*

September, 2004, just in time for the Clear Lake, Iowa National ScampCamp.

Tradition has it that the bird must go camping with its current keeper at least once before it gets to reside with a new camper. This transfer can take place at a ScampCamp or via the mail but, so far, has always been in person. The Scamper(s) entrusted with this valuable cargo must add to the bird's diary before giving it a new home. The entry in the diary consists of a picture and a short story of the bird's quotes and adventures while in the keeper's care.

So, after leaving the cozy confines of its nest in the Collins' camper, it fledged with Richard and Dorothy Tate from West Bloomfield, MI in September, 2004. Luckily, the Tates' cat, Moose, doesn't care for the taste of ceramic birds. In September, 2006, the bird migrated to the ScampCamp at Dubuque, IA and left with Pat and Frank Glugla from Deerbrook, WI.

At Nauvoo, in May, 2007, the SOI bird was entrusted to Lyndon and LouAnn Laney and spent the next few weeks at the Laney's farm in southern MN. At Leech Lake ScampCamp that June, the bird hopped aboard the trailer of Deb Foster and Jill Holmes and, in September, the bird migrated to Mount Horeb, WI with Tony and Darlene Nowak. He is currently tucked away in his cozy nest for the winter, next to the wood-burning stove, anxiously waiting for the day when



*The SOI Bird enjoying the winter with a Noregian Viking garden gnome at Nowak's home in Mount Horeb.*

*Photography by A. and D. Nowak*



*The SOI Bird is wondering if there are other SOI Mascots that travel with Scampers?*



the Nowak's Scamp gets pulled out of winter storage and the next season of Scamping begins - which state will he travel to next??!

## SOI Profile

### Dale and Eileen Eckert

7525 Northpoint Ct.  
West Bend, WI



*Eileen and Dale Eckert*

*Photographs by D. and E. Eckert*

Dale ran across the SOI web page on the internet and we were surprised to find out that such an organization existed. We thought it would be fun to join.

To tell you a little bit about us . . . we were thinking of traveling south during the cold months and began looking for some type of RV of trailer which might meet our needs. Dale was thinking about retiring and we already owned our little Toyota pickup; so began looking for something which we could pull with it. We didn't want to invest in a large truck and big rig because we didn't know whether we would enjoy traveling.

During our search, we came across a 13-foot Scamp. This was too small for what we wanted to do; but we checked into it further and got in touch with the Scamp manufacturing Company and drove to Backus, MN to take a look at their products. We were immediately sold on their 5<sup>th</sup> Wheel and ordered one that same day.

A short time later we drove back up to Backus to

pick up our Scamp. The Scamp people had one of their men go over every inch of it with us to show us how to operate all of the equipment. They were very accommodating.

We are not much for camping, but we do like to travel to see the country. Our 5<sup>th</sup> Wheel is just what we were looking for. Dale is a machinist and finish carpenter and was able to modify our Scamp to make it just the way we wanted. He mounted a microwave oven in the closet next to the sink and made smaller shelves in the rest of the closet above and below the microwave. We purchased several units of plastic drawers which he mounted above the bunk bed area next to the bathroom because we didn't plan on using the bunk bed anyway. He added more electrical outlets and took out the water tank to allow more storage area. Under the seats around the table he installed doors on the fronts of the seats so I didn't have to remove the cushions every time I wanted to get at something in those storage areas. We also made the table permanent so we could stop and have coffee on the road without having to redo everything.

I varnished all the wood areas in the Scamp and made new curtains for all the windows. The painting on the outside is all my work as I am an artist. I have done much scenery painting for a community Theater and have also painted several large murals in the community of West Bend. We receive very many comments as we drive across the country. One semi driver commented over his CB radio "That's the smallest 5<sup>th</sup> wheel rig I've ever seen." When we park in RV Parks, we often catch the big rig owners taking photographs of our little rig.

Generally, we are able to travel for several weeks in late winter just to get out



*Dale and Eileen have decorated the outside of their 5th Wheel Scamp with unique images.*



*Detail of some of Eileen's artwork.*



of the cold for awhile. Dale retired as a machinist about 10 years ago but is still involved in finish carpentry work just because he needs something to keep o him busy. He usually finishes 5 or 6 houses a year, working for just one builder. Each house takes approximately 5 weeks, or more, leaving us some time off to travel. I have a large garden and many flower beds so the warmer months are usually busy time for both of us.

We have gone to Arkansas several times, Branson several times and last spring (2007) we went to Vicksburg, MS, to see the River Front murals which were of much interest to me. Our little 4-cylinder 1991 Toyota pulls our Scampo like a charm. We can cruise along the freeways at 65 mph with no problems.

During our travels, we see a few Scamps and some Casitas and occasionally other brands of small (fiberglass) trailers; but we have only seen one other Scamp 5<sup>th</sup> Wheel. Our Scamp is just perfect for us and we enjoy using it very much. This past trip, we purchased a small flat screen TV. Dale made brackets to hang it from the curtain rod above the table - rather than the bulky TV which we used to set on the table - taking up a lot of space.

We look forward to receiving the SOI Newsletter.

## SOI Mail

**E-mail Access** - Libraries in Colorado and many states have E-mail access on their computers and will even assist a person in establishing a free E-mail address, like on Yahoo. **Phyllis Hammer**, Denver, CO.

**Scamping Again** - Again, a year has

gone by and, even with the best of intentions, I have not been free to join other Scampers. Last year my timing got fouled up with a cochlear implant operation. Then arrangements had to be made for having my son, Sean, and his family move in with us. They made the mistake of, several years ago, renting instead of buying. Now, in spite of the surplus of housing, the costs have escalated to the point they no longer qualify for a loan and their landlord has raised the rent to the point they can no longer afford housing acceptable to them. We have ample room and delight in having them with us. After getting them moved in, my fourth grade grandson's basketball team wasn't able to partitipate in the community conference as they lacked a coach. My daughter, Kellie, quickly volunteered her dad (ME) to be their mentor. Years ago, when I did coach, I was able to demonstrate techniques but with the aches and pains of my old age (I'll be 81 in January) I can't even do a decent lay-up but there I am with my whistle and team. So far, we are undefeated. Hopefully, this year I'll be able to make one of the Scamp get-togethers. My wife no longer wants to travel but, as long as I let her know what year I'll be returning, she lets me wander with my little Scamp.

But, I went off on a tangent. The purpose of sending you this e-mail was to let you know that I find the *SOI News* interesting and look forward to receiving it. If this letter of encouragement adds to your continuing to send it out it will have served its purpose. **Don Landers**

**Cover Picture** - What a surprise to download "Winter 2008" and see our Scamp on the front page. Have made several improvements since that picture





Grand Canyon, Arizona

Photographs by KR. Cranson



Bryce Canyon, Utah

was taken, major of which is a solar system with two 6 volt batteries, 2000 watt inverter and dedicated 110 volt outlets. We fill our slow cooker in the morning and by the time we're ready for dinner its done.

We took two weeks to travel from NC to Phoenix, where we currently are, taking as many back roads as possible, seeing things interstates don't offer. Enjoying State Parks in all the states, two in particular were Wall Doxy in Mississippi and Petit Jean in Arkansas. Traveled on the "Historic Route 66" as much as possible going through museums dedicated to Route 66. Roswell New Mexico is quite a place, no aliens though, but people probably thought our Scamp might be a space ship! Winslow Arizona, "Standing On The Corner", we stood there. Wigwam Motel (from the animated movie Cars) and all the sites. Through the Painted Desert, Petrified Forest and up to the Grand Canyon, there were two other Scamps there. Then on to Sedona, the road from Flagstaff to Sedona, 89A, was truly breathtaking. February 1st will be heading to Bradenton Florida and over to Highlands State Park. Hope to see you there. **Julie and Jim Cassaday**, Waynesville, NC.

**Suitcase on Wheels** - Our journey started by buying a fifth wheel Scamp and a Ford Ranger four wheel drive with a 208 HP engine. The Scamp was second-hand, a purchase made in August of 2001 - this was the beginning of our adventure. Our first trip was to the Black Hills of South Dakota. We go to our first camp site at a national forest campground down the road from

Spearfish. It did not cost us anything to camp there and it was a very beautiful site with a babbling brook right alongside our camper. We were hooked on camping.

The following is just a list of some of the places we have traveled so far: Arizona, New Mexico, Grand Canyon, San Diego, California, Michigan, Ford Museum (in Dearborn, MI), Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., Bull Shoals, AR, Blue Ridge Mountains, Medora, SD, Camp Farragut, ID, Crater Lake, OR, Zion and Brice Canyon, UT, all of the New England states and Texas. Texas surprised us - it is not as flat as we had thought! There are not many states we have not visited but Alaska is one we will have to think about doing. In Canada we have camped at Lake Winnipeg, the City of Winnipeg, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. All in all we have put approximately 85,000 miles on the camper. Wherever we go, people want to look at it and comment how cute it is. We get about 17 MPG average pulling the trailer - Wonderful! Best regards. **Carol and Jack Duoos**, Minneapolis, Mn

**Happy Owner** - Today (3-16-08) I have purchased a 2002 13' Scamp from Bretz RV in Missoula. I sent out an email to all surrounding RV dealers about two months ago. I asked them to reply if they ever ran into a Scamp. Once contacted, I did not hesitate to purchase (since hesitation means no sale on a Scamp). I bought the camper sight unseen for \$6995, yet today all my wishes were exceeded. It has a fridge, deep cycle battery, heater, water pump, and fancy RV toilet. The condition is near mint. I will be towing with various 1987-91 Toyota Camrys (I own three sedans and a wagon with identical four cylinder automatic drive trains). I will be underpowered at best, but frequent



transmission/differential oil changes will make the package absolutely bullet proof. The wagon has already towed boats and wood trailers for many years. It has almost 300,000 smokey-tired miles and is getting swapped with a better engine/transmission from a rusty (yet 30+ MPG) sedan. They will tow anything outside of warranty and towing capacity rating without failure. Is your online .pdf form current for 2008? (Yes) \$20 seems like a great deal. **Marty Weimer**, N. Kalispell, MT

## What's New

**Interagency Senior Pass** - There are a number of Passes available that allow entrance into various federal recreation areas. One that is almost unbelievable is the Golden Age Passport, or "Magic Card" as some call it. The one-time cost is just \$10 and it is good for the pass holders life-time. It gains entrance for the pass holder and up to 3 other persons in their vehicle.

Many federal areas that have an entrance fee accept this card and it also provides discounts for some other aspects, like camping. National Parks, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and certain other agencies honor the Golden Age Passport. This pass may be purchased at many federal land management agencies, such as National Parks, Bureau of Land Management and National Forests.

To purchase this pass, the person must have proof of age (must be 62) and be a permanent resident of the United States. It is not transferrable and expires upon the death of the holder.

## Tech Corner

### Summarizing your Scamp

With the approach of the spring and summer camping season, lots of SOI folks are thinking about getting their Scamps out of the winter "mothballs." Just as there is a guide for winterize your Scamp (see page 13 of the 2007 fall issue), there is a checklist for "summarizing" it. If you did a good job of winterizing your trailer, preparation for the coming "Scamping season won't take long.

#### Exterior

Whether your Scamp was stored in your yard, inside, or a storage compound, the first thing you will notice is how dirty the outside has become. If your trailer was not protected with a cover, you will notice the debris on the roof that has built up over the winter. If a cover was used, be sure to take special precautions when removing it and inspecting the roof - make sure you have help and do this safely.

Start by washing your Scamp, including the roof. Inspect the buttons, seams, moldings, air conditioner, solar panels, etc. for signs of deterioration or damage and apply the proper sealants to the areas of concern. If you have an awning, you may need to clean it and let it dry. With the exterior clean and dry, inspect the buttons, sealants around windows, and door molding.

Check the tires, including the spare, for any signs of deterioration and inflate them to their proper pressures.

Next are the hook-ups: electrical, propane, and water systems. Starting with the battery, it should be tested and

## SOI Member Name Badges

**George and Terry McDermott** of Altoona, Florida have made arrangements for SOI Members to order a custom made name badge. These are available in two styles, a 13/16-foot version (called standard) and a 5<sup>th</sup> Wheel design. The 13/16-foot version is 3.5 inches by 2 inches and the 5<sup>th</sup> wheel style is slightly larger.

The member's first name is engraved along with their SOI number and hometown and state as shown in the photograph. These badges are made of a white plastic with black etching. Each has a neat magnetic system to secure it which avoids any damage to clothing. Cost of each badge is \$15.00 plus \$1.05 Florida sales tax and \$2.00 shipping (total of \$18.05).

To order, complete the order form attachment and send it along with a check to:

Save The Moment  
P.O. Box 7126  
Sebring, FL 33872

*The SOI News editor expresses appreciation to George and Terry for their work in making these arrangements.*



*Propane tanks and valves should be checked and maintained annually.*

*Photographs by K R. Cranson*



*Wheel bearings need to be checked and serviced every year.*

fully charged when reinstalled (if the battery has been removed and stored indoors). Be sure the posts are clean and properly tightened. Adding a protective coating to the posts will reduce corrosion and insure a good connection.

Next, check the propane tank(s) for signs of corrosion or damage. If necessary the external surface should be clean of rust and painted. If they look OK, turn the tanks on and check for leaks at the tanks and all fittings with a soapy solution. Then turn the tanks off until you are ready to check the function of the appliances. If your tanks are too old (over 10 years) they will need to be replaced to be legally re-filled. Most propane services will not refill these old tanks.

Hook up your Scamp's city water hook up and check/replace the water heater plug. Adjust the water heater bypass, if you have one, and let the water heater fill. You may wish to start the heater now to be sure it is working. Extend the 110-volt power cord and check for any signs of wear or damaged areas — sometimes caused by rodents. Inspect the three prongs of the plug for signs of corrosion or wear and don't forget to look at the plug adapter for possible damage. Plug it in and be sure that your convertor (if you have one) is working properly.

### **Interior**

Now it's time to head inside your Scamp. Air out the coach by opening all the windows and roof vents, then turn on all the lights and check the fans, solar panel readings, etc. Look for burnt out bulbs and fuses, and ensure the convertor is charging the battery and sup-

plying power to each circuit properly. Don't forget the air conditioner, microwave and any other AC appliances to be sure they are working properly.

Next, turn your attention to the water system. First make sure the faucets are closed and the water heater bypass is back into the summer position, then turn the water on or fill the fresh water tank. Use the water pump to purge the water lines of RV antifreeze, if it was used. You may also want to purchase a tank freshener product if the on board tank is your primary water supply - follow the instructions to help get rid of any bacteria in the tank. With the lines flowing clear, look at all fittings to ensure they do not leak. Don't forget to remove any access panels to inspect for leaks - even a small leak can be costly to repair if damage occurs over time. After checking inside fittings, go outside and check the fresh water tank, underbelly, black and grey holding tanks and gate valves for water leaks or damage.

Turn the propane tanks on and go back inside to check the operation of all the appliances. Light a stove burner first to purge the air out and start the flow of propane. Turn each appliance on one at a time and make sure they are working properly. If you smell propane or have concerns any are not working properly, shut the appliance down and have an RV technician check the system out. They can do a leak-down and operating pressure test - especially if it has been a long time since the appliance and regulator has been serviced and checked.

With all appliances working properly, its time to focus on the smaller tasks; replacing the batteries in the clock, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, etc.

Once you have completed these procedures you will be ready for another sea-



son of Scamping with your family and friends.

*Modified from an article by Reg DeYoung in the 2008 March RV west eNewsletter*

## Recipe Corner



### Ramen Coleslaw

Margie Burk., MI and Pat Gluga, WI

- 1 lb. coleslaw mix
- 1/2 C sunflower seeds
- 1 pkg. Beef Ramen Noodle mix
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 1/2 C toasted almonds, sliced

#### Dressing:

- 1/2 C oil
- 1/3 C cider or rice vinegar
- 1/4 C sugar

Mix coleslaw, onions, almonds, and sunflower seeds. Mix oil, vinegar, sugar, beef flavor packet. Break up Ramen noodles. Add to slaw and mix; Toss with dressing and serve immediately.

**\*Margie's note...**If taking the salad, somewhere, bring dressing in a separate container and toss when ready to serve.

**\*Pat's note...**Variations I have seen, instead of 1 pkg. Ramen noodle you use 2 pkg. Ramen noodles. You can use any flavor. Instead of green onions you use 1 med. Onion. Instead of rice vinegar you use white vinegar. There are some recipes that put the crushed noodles on top of the salad just before serving

*Editor's Note: The recipes in the SOI News are from Alice Vernezze's SOI Cookbook. It is a goldmine of outstanding recipes and is available from Alice for \$8.00 plus postage. You can contact Alice at: E-mail ezzeal@bellsouth.net or by phone: 321-773-2676.*

## Questions & Answers

**Replacement Lights** - I wish to make some modifications right away. The most urgent is conversion of all 12-volt filament bulbs to modern LED, along with two 15-watt solar panels and regulator from Northern Tool. I'm sure some helpful pointers are available in your publications I'm willing to purchase already published "Solar Scamp" items. Please recommend, as I am surrounded by the best Scamp camp sites in the world, **Marty Weimer** 454 3rd Avenue East N. Kalispell, Montana 59901 E-mail: Mweimer@bresnan.net (see SOI Mailbag for additional background)

**Buttons** - Problems with outside buttons falling off? Scampers, I have had this problem but I also live in the north (Michigan) with freezing conditions. I have a 2001 5th wheel Deluxe and noticed this past summer that the white buttons were wearing and coming off. I tried all over looking for replacements with no luck and then hit the jackpot during an Internet search. They are made up of two parts the bottom flat washer and a snap on cap. You can find them at <http://www.prodec.com> they are called SNAP-CAPS. I ordered 100 of both the caps and washers. The cost each is 1-99 \$0.10 each or 100-999 \$0.07 each. I ordered 100 of each. To my surprise I have 88 on the outside of my trailer. If you order less than 1000 you need to order on line. Free shipping to the US as long as the order is at least \$10.00. When I got home this winter I pried a few caps off and noticed that some of the screws from the factory were not plated and had rusted quite bad. I am going to change them all out and add a little silicone under the cap to keep out

moisture. I will bring my extras to Scamp Camp in 2009 (in Sebring, FL)  
**Jim Converse**, E-mail: jmc57@att.net

## Future ScampCamps

**Nebraska ScampCamp** - May 29 - June 1, 2008 at Pioneer Village, Minden, just 12 miles south of Kearney on I-80 (exit 279). Relive America's Golden Yesterdays. The largest collection of Americana anywhere. Harold Warp's Pioneer Village, a complex of 28 buildings on 20 acres housing over 50,000 irreplaceable items of historical value. The museum entry fee is \$9.50. If you wish to enter a second, third or fourth etc time be sure to ask for a rain check.

Hot dogs or sloppy joe's will be provided by Doris Lawson on the first night (Thursday), with other participants providing the side dishes to complete a Pot Luck. Be sure to bring along musical instruments as well as games. It's always nice to have some entertainment

Make your reservations soon (1-800-445-4447) and be sure to tell them you are with the Scamp group. The campground has assigned our group sites # 2

through 18 which are very large, full hookup pull through sites, which we will share. The shared cost is \$7.50 per RV/night. If you have someone to share a site with, let the campground know when you make the reservation. If you wish to camp solo in a site it will have to be in a site from #19 up, which means you might not be near our group. It would depend on what other sites are available.

Don't forget to make your reservations soon before all our sites fill and only sites in another section of the campground are available. Also, don't forget to call **Doris Lawson** (319-754-5719) and let her know you are coming, your site number, where you are from, and the type of camper you have.

**Grand Marais, MN Fiberglass Gathering**. June 12 - 15, 2008. Located at Grand Marais RV Park Campground & Recreation Area. Grand Marais is about 110 miles north of Duluth, MN along highway 61. The campground is within walking distance of the quaint little town of Grand Marais. It's just 50 miles from Grand Portage National Monument, 36 miles north, as well as the Canadian border. A Pot Luck is planned for Saturday night. You are welcome to bring games, music instruments, firewood, etc. to share with the group. Don't forget tales about your trips at the fireside each night, and of course, any trailer modifications you wish to share.

Make your reservations directly with Grand Marais RV Park Campground and Recreation Area. Phone: 1-800-998-0959. To keep our group together we suggest the following sites which are water and electric; 29-30, 32-35, 45-47, 69-78, 80-89, 92-100 & 156-162. If you wish full hookups then we suggest sites 101-122. Let them know you are with the Fiberglass Gathering

## ScampCamps

Gatherings of Scamps, and other small fiberglass RVs that join in, at various locations across the country are organized and hosted by SOI Members and others who wish to share the attractions of their area. These meetings have become a tradition of the group since the first one held almost ten years ago. All ScampCamps are independent of Scamp Owners International, with all arrangements made by the individual(s) hosting the event. SOI does not sanction or financially support any gathering or other activities conducted by an SOI Member(s). SOI's involvement is simply one of announcing these events and offering suggestions to anyone interested in planning and hosting a gathering. These suggestions are outlined in **Hosting a ScampCamp Guidelines**. It is available online, just send your request to the editor.



when you make your reservations. Make those reservations early, you can always cancel. Reservations are accepted after 1-1-08. **Joy Avila** and **Nancy and Fred Hartman** will host this gathering. *Once your reservations are made notify either Joy Avila (joy2world@mindsync.com 209-533-9241) or Nancy Hartman nhartman@uslink.net.* Let us know the name of each attendee, trailer type and year, hometown and arrival/departure dates.

**Letchworth Fiberglass Rally** - September 9 - 13, 2008 at Letchworth State Park in western New York. Make reservations at ReserveAmerica.com. Choose a campsite in the 200 loop (lower numbers preferred). The 200 loop is a "pet-friendly" area of the park. After obtaining a reservation, let us know you are coming by contacting **Dick Freed** at RichFreed@aol.com or by phone (814) 449-9596. We will keep you up to date about the program.

**ScampCamp 2009** - February 10-15, 2009 (Tues-Fri) at Sebring. Florida is planned for our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual ScampCamp at Highlands Hammock State Park. Over a hundred SOI Members attended ScampCamp 2008 to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SOI. 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 at-

tending; 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?

### Dream Trip (con't)

Columbia River Highway (US 30) through the Gorge. Superb campgrounds, gorgeous sights, the Bonneville Dam, Mt. Hood rising up in the foreground as you rounded a curve — all memorable events.

A side trip to the Mt. St. Helen's National Volcanic Visitor Center was well worth the small detour. Pleasant Lake RV Park outside of Seattle was a gem. A small lake reflected the huge trees and made for a very pleasant two day stay. Of course, we went up the Space Needle and had wonderful views of the city as well as Mt. Rainier. We also had a tour at the Boeing plant in Everett, WA, where they were building the first 787. Fascinating.

Heading north on US 101 we stopped at Richardson Grove State Park for a tour of the giant redwoods. They are so unbelievably large — and beautiful — and it is so quiet in the forest. Another point of interest further on was the Avenue of the Giants filled with more of the astounding redwoods.

Jack managed to dip his toes in the 55° F water of the Pacific, but I opted for fingers only! Lots of crashing waves on the huge rocks — and hardly anyone on the beach! All along the shoreline we saw large bushes with bright yellow flowers — so pretty. But we found out that Scottish Broom is a pesky plant that takes over other plants. And it is full of oil, so it can be dangerous in a forest fire.



Mount Hood

## A DREAM TRIP

by Betsey Holzhauser

Spirit Lake, IA

Part 1

Early last winter, Jack and I started planning a trip to the Pacific Northwest and Canada. To visit there had been a dream of ours ever since we bought our



*Glen Alpine Falls near Lake Tahoe*

16-foot Scamp the day after I retired in 2003. We left Iowa May 7<sup>th</sup> and returned 55 days and 7,800 miles later having had mostly cloudless, sunny days for our trip of a lifetime. We visited friends in Colorado and spent a day in Rocky Mountain National Park where we saw 50 elk being

stalked by a wolf.

Continuing on west we headed up to Salt Lake City where we were able to take in the Sunday broadcast of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir (along with 21,000 other folks!).

A Sunday afternoon drive up the Provo Canyon, where the Provo River was running briskly, provided many photographic opportunities. Then on through Nevada and the Spooner Summit where we were at

7,146 feet — no problem at all with the Looney Bin (that's our Scamp) climbing the hills or going down being towed by a Toyota Siena van.

We arrived in South Lake Tahoe and found that grocery prices were

rather steep there. Nice cool nights that warmed to the 60s during the day. Found the beautiful Glen Alpine Falls where we were able to have a picnic lunch at the top of the falls. Harrah's is right over the line in Nevada since they don't allow gambling in California. We took the elevator up to the 18<sup>th</sup> floor where there was a huge balcony all glassed in with gorgeous vistas of Lake Tahoe. It was only a few weeks later that the terrible wildfires burned over 200 of the gorgeous homes that we had just seen.

On to Oregon where we discovered that you are not allowed to pump your own gas — the station does it for you. Coos Bay provided a tasty seafood dinner, and the next morning we saw the giant sand dunes near Winchester Bay. The Dean Creek Elk Viewing area provided a view of at least 50 elk having lunch in the meadow.

We turned east on US 20 at Newport. This is the longest highway in the US running from here to Boston. We stopped at what had to be the worst campground we have ever stayed in outside Portland. We nicknamed it "Portland Poop" because it is 3 miles from the Portland airport, right next door to the sewage treatment plant, and campers cheek to jowl.

We spent several days touring the

**Continued on page 15**

*Photographs by J. & B. Holzhauser*



*Columbia River Gorge*

### SOI News

Spring 2008

Volume X Number 2

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