

# SOI News



Summer 2008

Scamp Owners International

Volume X Number 3



*New 2008 Scamp - It is raining like heck here in Montana - may have snow tonight! Good thing I opted for the furnace! I made my first maiden voyage to a State Park only half-hour from home. All went well. Looking forward to getting to see more of nearby parks here in Montana. Maybe fellow Scampers some day! Cheers! **Debby Gross**, Belgrade, MT*

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## From the Editor's Desk

By the time you receive this issue of the SOI News, the summer Scamping season should be in full bloom. That is, if you have enough cash (or credit?) to purchase fuel! Some of us may have to take out a second mortgage on our homes! Sharon and I have made plans to take our oldest grandson to visit Crater Lake National Park in southern Oregon in August. We'll see how that all goes as the summer camping season progresses.

So far there have only been three future ScampCamps reported for inclusion in this issue of the newsletter. The Letchworth State Park, NY gathering is planned for September 9 - 10 and Fancy Gap, VA for October 15 - 16. These may be close enough for many SOI members in the northeastern states to attend, without taking out a loan for fuel. The other meeting is the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual ScampCamp held at Highlands Hammock State Park near Sebring, Florida. It is scheduled for February 10 - 15, 2009. You can check out all of these on page 15.

A number of SOI members have submitted nice articles to share their experiences. This is what I have hoped would occur from the very inception of the *SOI News*. With these contributions the publication becomes much more interesting - probably many are getting tired of reading the stuff I write. Long time SOI members **Jack** and **Alice Vernezze** report on their 10-day trip to a Good Sam Samboree held in Rayne, Louisiana. Ever think of doing some winter camping? **David** and **Katrina Daenzer** have and share their experiences living in their 13-foot Scamp during a Michigan winter. And, of course, **Betsey Holzhauer** offers the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of a Dream Trip through

the pacific northwest. A "BIG SOI THANKS" goes out to each of these folks for their willingness to share their experiences.

With these great articles for inspiration, I would like to invite other SOI Members to consider sharing some of their Scamping experiences. Often people think that the trips they have taken or a favorite camping area would not be of interest to others. However, as these pieces clearly show, that is not the case. So, get out your pictures and the other mementos you have collected from one of your trips and put an article together. It will be fun to relive that time and other SOI Members will enjoy it with you!

The 2008 Spring issue carried the opportunity to get a unique SOI Membership Name Tag. I checked with the company providing this service and they report that several orders have already been received. Arrangements for these were set up by SOI members **George** and **Terry McDermott** and I would like to thank them for all their work on this project. Check out the opportunity to get your SOI Name Tag on page 14.

Over the past several months there have been reports of a problem with the axles on certain Scamp models. **Camper Bob** has researched this matter and has established a web site where detailed information can be checked out. See page 13 for how to get to his web site. You will also find links to a number of other interesting sites with information about Scamps and other small fiberglass "eggs" in his note on page 9.

Sharon and I will be staying in our Scamp during part of the summer to volunteer at a youth camp in northern Michigan. Over the past year and a half we have worked to improve the mineral and rock collections in their museums. It has been great fun and we look forward to continue this effort.

Rod



**Rod Cranson**  
Editor

The editor working on the Rock displays at Camp Barakel near Fairview, Michigan.

## Winter Camping in Michigan

David and Katrina Daenzer  
Mt. Clemens, MI.

We have a 2005 deluxe, front settee model. We went for most of the options, but elected to forgo the furnace and put the heat strip in the A/C unit. In the blowing snow and ambient temperature of 25° F, we were quite comfortable running the



*Grand Haven State Park, Needless to say, we were by ourselves. Very nice. I would not like this place during the prime season.*

heat for 10-15 minutes each hour when awake. We did tend to keep our bodies in the upper half of the Scamp. Under the covers for sleeping was comfortable. The insulation is not bad. Two people in a 13-foot can almost keep things warm in these conditions.

No Easter camping now (March, 2008). We were at Holland State Park



*Yankee Springs State Park, Easter Monday with more snow, but less wind. It was nice, but I suspect it is a zoo during the summer season.*

(where we met the SOI Editor) in 2006 because our son was attending Hope College working on a performance organ degree and was the organist/music director at a Lutheran church in Grand Rapids. We were out there to spend Easter with him and assist his choir.

Our son, Sean, graduated in 2006 and spent the next year in Grand Rapids at the church and working at the Marriott to make ends meet. He started at our Lutheran seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, last summer on a path to become a Lutheran pastor. We went out there to assist his choir last year, also.

Stayed at Grand Haven pre-Easter and Yankee Springs post-Easter. We are making an effort to hit all of the state campgrounds in our travels. Had planned to hit Algonac State Park in January 2008, but someone misinformed



*Grand Haven State Park in early March, We decided to put the Scamp in the lee of the building since there was a choice of sites.*



*Winter is still in control in March along Lake Michigan at Grand Haven State Park.*



*The red landmark lighthouse at Grand Haven State Park nearly disappears in the winter fog.*





*Strong winter storms batter the Grand Haven State Park lighthouse and fog horn.*

us that it was not open. We are going there in a couple of weeks (April 2008).

We have enjoyed your geological essays in the newsletters. I have a good friend here at Wayne State University, David Lowrie, who is an administrative assistant in the geology department. He was curator for a number of collection displays.

*All images by D. and K. Daenzer*

## Louisiana Scamping Trip

Jack and Alice Vernezze  
Satellite Beach, Florida

In April we went to a "Good Sams Samboree" in Rayne, Louisiana. We heard about it from a Scamp couple from New Orleans, Don and Pat Geier - they were attending the SOI celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> ScampCamp Anniversary in Sebring, Florida during February. While chatting with them we mentioned that we were planning a trip to Perry, Georgia, for a rally hosted by the "Good Sam Club." They said that Good Sam was having a Samboree in



*Alice and Jack Vernezze have been active in Scamp Owners International for many years.*

*Image by K R. Cranson*

Rayne, Louisiana near their home. Our long-time friends, new SOI Members, Jim and Connie Fears, said "they have good friends in Rayne" and that was the beginning of a wonderful experience.

We left Satellite Beach, with our 5<sup>th</sup> wheel Scamp fully loaded for a 10 day trip. It was a beautiful sunny warm morning. We were going to travel with our good friends Jim & Connie. They live in a neighboring city, so we picked them up and headed for Rayne Louisiana.

We traveled the interstates, we usually prefer the back roads, but choose the interstates when not sight seeing. After traveling for several hours, a tire on the Scamp blew out. With the tire changed, we started looking for a Goodyear Tire store to replace the blown tire. However, it was the next morning before we found one - got two new tires and were once again on our way to fun and food. Since we arrived a day early, a Wal-Mart served as our overnight "campground."

The following day, a Sunday, was check-in day. We got registered and settled in. Our site was right up front so everyone had to pass by our little Scamp. It was fun to watch them all pointing and commenting on how small it was. On Wednesday there was a knock on the door, it was Don and Pat Geier. We were very glad to see them and they joined us at the festivities that evening.

Names were drawn for the King and Queen of the Samboree. And, to our great excitement, Don and Pat Geier were chosen. We got pictures of the Celebration when Don was awarded a gold crown and Pat a Gold and Diamond Tierra. They also received umbrellas and many prizes, and for the remainder of the Celebration they wore these items and lead the subjects in a parade around the room. It was a mini



*Pat and Don Geier enjoy serving as King and Queen of the Rayne Samboree. Image by J. & A. Verneze*

Mardi-Gras with great music. Don and Pat were throwing bead necklaces to everyone. They promised to bring the Crown and Tierra to ScampCamp 2009. We have many necklaces to share with everyone at Sebring, so it should be a festive time for all.

The food is another story. We had a taste of the great food, never cooked another meal and wanted to savor the taste of New Orleans as much as we could. A few side trips provided opportunities to get acquainted with the local culture. We saw how they farmed the rice fields, and then after the rice was harvested, the crawfish were harvested - we actually got to watch as they caught them. It was so interesting.

We also visited a farm in the country, the home of our friends Jim and Connie Fears. It was near Rayne, they had been in the Air Force together. During our visit, their friend John was celebrating his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. He does all the yard work, takes care of the trees, and is more active than someone 30 years younger. His wife is 89 and as spry as anyone I know. Their minds were as sharp as anyone in their 60's. They were amazing.

It was a family farm and as each family matured, the land was divided. The

original farm started out as thousands of acres and as it was divided, each family built their homes there. There were first, second, third, fourth, and fifth cousins, all sharing the land. It has never left the family as it was passed on from one generation to the next - just like in the old days. The farm had Peacocks, many Fig and Pecan trees, and many other fascinating features.

We were glad that Don and Pat Geier had told us about the Spring Samboree, it was great fun and a wonderful experience.



*I told you not to park your Scamp in the geyser basin last night!  
Now you are just going to have to wait until it stops.*



## Escaping Winter On the Road South

Doug Bullock  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada



*Doug at the beginning of his long winter escape at the George Dickel Distillery in Tennessee.*

At the end of November 2006, I got my life in order and set out for the south. This was my second time to take an extended trip and I was thoroughly familiar with my Trillium Outback I had bought new in 2004. Could I focus on travel, not learning how to live in 60 square feet? I wanted this trip to be

as open ended as possible and was able to contain visits with family and friends to December, leaving January through mid-March open to just experience travel.

At the end of November I left Ottawa and started driving south on the I-81 until I came to the first campground that was open - Lickdale Campground in southern Pennsylvania. A couple of

nights later found me visiting cousins near Norfolk, Virginia - I set up in their driveway and lived in the Trillium. Fine early December weather gave lots of opportunities to explore Civil War sites and the town of Williamsburg, VA. Continuing southwest, towards Durham North Carolina, I camped at a KOA and visited with a friend at Duke University.

For the rest of December the Trillium was parked near Myrtle Beach while I got a flight to California for Christmas. This stay at Ocean Lakes Campground, (<http://www.oceanlakes.com/>) offered reasonable rates and, most importantly, stored my trailer in a secure compound for only \$25.00/week while I was away.

Early in January I left Ocean Lakes and took a couple of weeks to meander down the east coast, staying at various State Parks - Hunting Island South Carolina, Fort McAllister and Crooked River Georgia. The Carolinas and Georgia offer some gorgeous camping locations along the salt marshes of the east coast. Hiking and cycling are favorite activities and I found plenty of opportunities.

I'm more attracted to wilderness and small town environments than cities, but Savannah Georgia was an exception. The antebellum architecture is a real treat and I took in the Martin Luther King Day parade. Another diversion kept me in the Savannah area - a visit to the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal and Museum (<http://www.savannahogeecheecanal.com>) found me doing a bit of volunteer work cleaning up the grounds. I became a member of this dedicated group attempting to preserve a bit of history.

I could easily have stayed around coastal Georgia all winter, but wanderlust got the best of me. Where to go next? Ah, the Okefenokee Swamp! That fabled land



*Savannah Ogeechee Canal in Georgia*

of Pogo Possum and inspiration to Walt Kelly. Another two weeks disappeared as I camped at three locations in and around the swamp - two State Parks and a private campground. Don't miss Obediah's Okefenokee interpretive park (<http://www.okefenokeeswamp.com>) and a guided boat tour on the Suwannee River at it's head waters in the swamp (<http://gastateparks.org/info/scfoster/>).

Several years ago, before I had a trailer, I'd driven along the Gulf coast as far west as New Orleans, exploring the beaches and staying in motels. By the end of that trip I couldn't stand the thought of staying in another motel! But I digress.

Now I wanted to continue west, this time via the back roads of southern, but inland - Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Yes, I was starting to see a shape for the remainder of the trip. I wanted a before/after Katrina experience of New Orleans and to discover Cajun Country before working my way home.

The 'back roads' did not disappoint. I found friendly people, friendly inexpensive private campgrounds, towns with their fascinating histories and often unusual names - Eight Mile Still and Alapaha, Georgia; Opp, Alabama; etc. This section really highlighted the advantage of a small RV, fun driving the secondary roads and lots of flexibility when reserving a camp site. I always like an electrical hookup (anyone figured out a solar alternative?), but sometimes I can persuade a campground to put me in an electrified tent site, great savings and more privacy.

Entering Louisiana, for the first time on the trip I could not be assured of finding a camping space. A combination of factors - Mardi Gras celebrations were in full swing, and relief workers/refugees are still occupying campgrounds. I finally re-

served accommodation at Fairview-Riverside State Park on the north side of Lake Pontchartrain. This became my base for exploring the New Orleans area.

The damage near the Orleans and St. Bernard Parish levees is still shocking; the French Quarter seemed untouched. I had pictures of the same area from three years ago, the contrast is heart breaking.

From New Orleans to Cajun Country - I visited Houma, Morgan City, Patterson, Lafayette, Lake Charles. What a revelation! French name places, friendly people, Creole cooking - all connections to Canada.

Mardi Gras day in Lafayette hosts the second largest Mardi Gras parade in Louisiana.

One of my most memorable days was a tour of bayous in the Atchafalaya Basin. It's beautiful, an amazing experience, Bayous everywhere, one would become completely



*Atchafalaya Basin Backwater Swamp Tour*

*All images by D. Bullock*



*Loading logs while volunteering at the S - O Canal.*



lost without a guide. The Atchafalaya Basin (<http://www.atchafalaya.org/discover/discover.asp>)



*Driving the Natchez Trace through Mississippi.*

was totally unknown to me, it is not well promoted as a tourist stop, but it has a presence and similar sad history to the Okeefenokee

Swamp.

In the 1800s the Indigenous peoples in these areas were killed or driven out before all the cypress forests were clear cut in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Cypress grow slowly over centuries, the new growth cypress

one sees today are but a shadow of the original immense trees.

By now, I'm thinking of heading home. I've got 2000 km to cover in two weeks and I

don't want to be rushed. My last day trip was a drive around most of the Creole Nature Trail (<http://www.creolenaturetrail.org/>). The Lake Charles visitors centre warned me to fill up on gas and take a lunch as there are still few facilities open.

The devastation from Hurricane Rita was even more evident than what I saw around New Orleans. Graveyards without a church; rusted steel gas station awnings; litter from smashed

buildings in the swamps. After almost 3 years, to still see the rubble of destroyed businesses and lives leaves only questions.

On the drive north, following the beautiful Natchez Trace, I stayed 3 nights at Trace State Park, Mississippi near Tupelo, birthplace of Elvis Presley. There was great resonance with Elvis - "Shaking all over." I stayed an extra night here because torrential rains and a tornado warning in the area limited activity to worrying about the safety of staying in the RV. It looked like I might be spending a night in the campground common facility which was set up as an emergency shelter. Drove from Tennessee east into Virginia and up I-81 thru the Shenandoah Valley. My last night camping was back at Lickdale Pennsylvania, with snow in the campground. Two more nights in motels and I was home. What a wonderful trip with many memories to last a lifetime. Doug's E-mail is: [dougmb@magma.ca](mailto:dougmb@magma.ca)



*Trace State Park near Tupelo, Mississippi*



*Final camping night at Lickdale, Pennsylvania*

**"An intellectual is a man who takes more words than necessary to tell more than he knows."**

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*



### SOI Mailbag

**New Position** - This letter is to inform you that I am retiring from the pastoral ministry effective at the East Ohio Annual Conference this year in June. I am relocating to Valdosta, Georgia and according to the Scripture, I am going to make full proof of my ministry by doing the work of an evangelist. As a member of the National Association of United Methodist Evangelists, I will be serving as a full time associate evangelist preaching revivals, evangelistic services, and home coming services. My new address is P. O. Box 2033, Valdosta, GA 31604. My new phone number is (229) 247-6226. All of this is effective June 26, 2008. I will now be able to attend a lot more Scamp Camps. Praise God for that! **Ray Yody**, Valdosta, GA.

**New Owners** - Hello. We, Ramona and Gordy Moss wish to greet all the Scampers. And to inform you that due to that guy, "Old Age," We have sold our 13 Foot 1986 Scamp. However it is gone not lost. Our Son Maj. Chaplain Mark Moss and his wife Susan purchased it from us. Mark is a career Chaplain in the US Army. He has served in, Iraq, Kosovo, Germany, Korea, many camps in the USA, among other places. They have also been Missionaries in Sierra Leone West Africa, with their 4 children. Our request is to keep our SOI number 18. Their Permanent home mailing address is our home address. So only the first names would be changed from Gordon and Ramona to Mark M. and Susan L. We have been and will forward all "E" mail and snail mail to them.

We would like to thank Sharon and Rod, for all the work and time invested in



*Mark and Susan will use their Mustang GT as a tow car.*

*Image by G. & R. Moss*

SOI so we all could have wonderful times and memories! Also thank all the others who worked so hard for SOI. THANK YOU! By the way, our Scamp Money went for a 52 in LCD TV. It has it's own designated computer hooked to it. Now we can read *SOI News* on a 52in Monitor. **Gordy and Ramona Moss**, Bloomington, MN

### What's New

#### **Great Fiberglass Web Site** -

There are a lot of Scamp and fiberglass trailer related sites: groups, forums, clubs, etc. I like visiting them but it's a lot of links to remember. Managing bookmarks across computers is a pain, and sharing them with friends is not easy. So I made a lightweight web page called *Egg Central*. You can check it out at:

<http://webpages.charter.net/kamperbob/eggcentral.html>

Give it a try. It could make your time online a little easier. You might discover an interesting site you didn't know about. And of course I'd like to know about other sites to add. Cheers.

**KamperBob**



### New SOI Item Available



Khaki T-Shirt matching the SOI Ball Cap is 100% pre-shrunk cotton with SOI Logo.

See SOI Wear attachment for additional information and Order Form.

#### **\* Special Offer \***

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary SOI Tote Bag free with any \$50 SOI Wear order.



**New Scamp Website** - Scamp-Eveland, Inc. has a new and exciting website. It offers much more information and even has a great video illustrating Scamp trailers. Another interesting feature is a Scamp owner's manual that can be downloaded and printed. There are many other aspects of this site that you will want to explore - have a look at: [www.scamptrailers.com](http://www.scamptrailers.com).

## Questions & Answers

**Brake Problem** - I am an owner of a 16-foot 1982 Scamp. It has not been used in years. In the process of getting it ready for the road, I discovered that the brake lining glue failed, leaving the lining detached from the shoe. Upon contacting Scamp, I have learned that they used Fayette brake drums, shoes, and axles and that the company is no longer in existence. My question is what lining or hub assembly is compatible with this electric brake system without having to change the entire axle assembly? What are your members doing to reline the brakes on the older models? Any information that you may provide will be greatly appreciated. **David Whisenant**, E-mail: [dwhisenant@carolina.rr.com](mailto:dwhisenant@carolina.rr.com).

**Tire Size** - You have provided tire info in the past...what is the largest 13" tire that will fit under my 16' Scamp...the originals look so skinny...but I did pull it 6,000 miles with no problems! **Bob Huff**, Charlottesville, VA.

## Modifications & Changes

**Brighter Tail Lights?** - I have long noticed that the tail lights on our '1998 5<sup>th</sup>



*Tail light illustrating the black housing behind the bulbs.*

Wheel do not seem very bright. On the way back to Michigan from Florida in March, we lost one of the red lenses on our tail lights. This caught my attention - the tail light housing under the lens was black. Understanding that black does not reflect light, I thought it might be beneficial if this interior was white to provide maximum reflectance.



*Tail light housing behind the bulbs after painting it white.*

*Images by K R. Cranson*

So, I painted the black interior of the tail light housing white before reinstalling the covering lenses. **R. Cranson**, Lansing, MI.

**Back Splash** - I see that sometimes you publish the modifications that people have done to their Scamps. I wanted to forward you a photo of one modification we made right after purchasing our 16' Scamp in May of 2007. We were concerned with splatters from the stove stain-



The SOI Bird "Wonders if you might have a question, or response to one of the questions here?"

ing the felt-like wall surrounding the window. We used a vinyl ceiling panel that was purchased at the local Menard's and the finishing edge pieces for all four sides. After making a template for the window cut-out, I traced the pattern onto the panel and was able to cut it with a regular pair of scissors. The edge slides easily under the fluorescent light fixture. The whole panel was attached with the rough side of 1 inch strips of velcro. The matching (smooth) portion of the velcro is not needed. The velcro adheres to the felt wall quite nicely. The nicest part is, the whole panel is removable! We've used our Scamp 3 times our first summer and, yes, when you cook--you splatter gravy, grease, and sauces. The clean-up is very simple. Thanks for keeping us posted with updated newsletters! **Stephanie Misemer**, Rapid City, SD.

**Window Leaks** - After seeking advice about replacing leaking side crank out windows in our 1998 16-foot Scamp, we decided to do the job ourselves. We had tracked down the leak to the windows with the use of a hose, a tarp, and some plastic and package tape. We could not tell why they were leaking until we removed the windows. Our Scamp has the overhead wood-grained cabinets above the windows in back, and the screws that hold the cabinets are about 2 inches above the window.

Three of those screws (2 on one side and 1 on the other side) had deformed the fiberglass when they were



*"Rat fur" and insulation pulled back with the rivets and window removed*

tightened. The fiberglass was dished in an 1/8 inch or so where the top edge of the window should seat. It was obvious that it had been leaking there for a long time. We purchased the putty tape and rivets from Scamp. The dished in areas were leveled by doubling up the putty tape. One layer was applied to the fiberglass just in the dished in areas. We found you can level the putty tape with a pocket knife if you use paint thinners sparingly to keep the knife from sticking. The rat fur and insulation had to be pulled back about 4" all around the window on the inside and it took two of us to remove the rivets. One person inside holding the rivet with pliers while the other drilled them out from the outside. We applied the putty tape to the window and punched out holes in the putty where the rivets would go through. 3M spray adhesive put the inside insulation and rat fur back in place. **NO LEAKS.** **Mark and Hillary Hutton**, Vienna, ME.

*All images by M. & H. Hutton*

## Recipe Corner



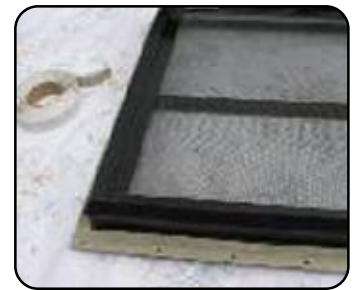
### Cooking Light - Carrot Souffle

Joyce Wright, VA

- 7 C carrots, chopped about 2 lbs.
- 2/3 C granulated sugar
- 1/4 C fat-free sour cream
- 3 T butter, melted
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 3 lg. eggs, beaten
- Cooking spray
- 1 tsp. powdered sugar



*Putty tape being applied to the dished-in area of the fiberglass. The rag is used to dampen the putty surface with paint thinner to keep the knife from sticking.*



*Putty tape applied to the window and rivet holes carefully pre-punched. The tape extended beyond the window slightly and was trimmed after installation.*



*Window opening ready for window installation.*



Cook carrots until very well done, drain then place into large food processor along with all the other ingredients. Blend until very smooth and fluffy. Spray inside of a 9 x 13 in. baking dish or 2 qt. baking dish, with cooking spray. Bake at 350 degrees, for 40 to 45 min. or until crack appears in top. Remove from oven and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

*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.*



*Typical RV wheel bearing.*

## Tech Corner

### Wheel Bearings

Inspection and servicing of the Wheel bearings on your Scamp is an important part of routine maintenance.

They are a critical component of the suspension system and failure of a bearing can be a serious problem when on the road. Wheel bearings serve three functions; 1) to support the Scamp's loaded weight when it traveling on the road or parked, 2) allow the wheels to rotate with the minimum amount of friction, and 3) to allow the trailer to make sharp turns.

Most wheel bearings, used on recreational trailers are known as tapered bearings. Their design is able to support greater loads due to the increased area within the bearing. These cone-shaped rollers are composed of high-quality steel that has been case hardened to increase their durability to withstand the effect of heat, torque and wear.

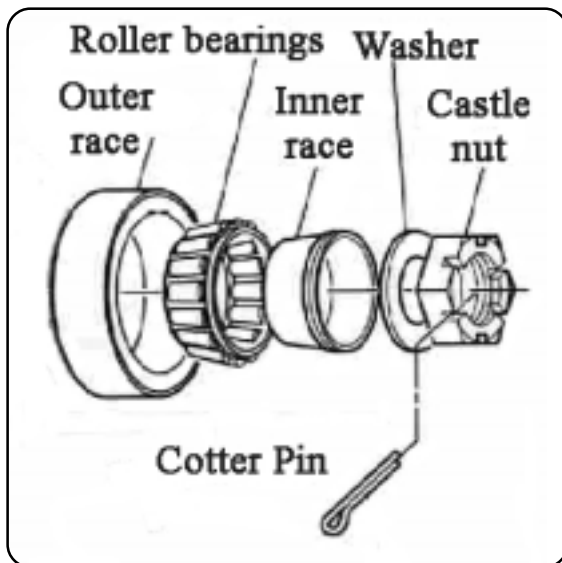
The most typical kind of damage to wheel bearings results from insufficient or inappropriate maintenance. These include mishandling, improper installation and adjustment along with inadequate lubrication - all can lead to serious implications. In the worse case scenario, a bearing can be totally destroyed and you could lose a wheel or, with a substantial heat buildup, there is a good chance of a fire. As you can imagine, fire is not a friend of fiberglass trailers.

Periodic maintenance recommendations vary from one manufacture to another. However, you should inspect and repack the wheel bearings every year at the start of the travel season. This is especially important if trips involve high-mileage travel.

The costs for parts and labor to accomplish this task tend to be minimal - especially compared to dealing with a potential bearing failure on the road. The procedure is not complicated and many Scamp owners do their own wheel bearing maintenance. If you choose to have an RV center do it, there is often a set rate that includes parts and labor. Scamps are economical because the fee is often based on the number of axles - and with a single axle, the cost for our little fiberglass eggs is about as low as it gets.

If you plan to repack the bearing yourself, there are several important safety considerations to observe.

1) Make sure your Scamp is properly secured with quality jack stands rated



*The anatomy of an RV wheel bearing.*

**Potential Axle Problem** - If you have a 2001-2007 Scamp 16' or 19' trailer you should know about a potential problem. The problem involves AI-KO axles with the perch brackets turned the wrong way. Most owners have not experienced any problems as a result. But some axles have cracked so inspection is highly recommended. If cracks are caught early, repair is recommended. If too late, the axle should be replaced. This story unfolded last Fall through efforts of members of the Yahoo Scampers group. To aid inspection a 2-page PDF bulletin was prepared with photos and diagrams.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scampers/files/%2707%20Axle%20Alert/Axle%20Alert.pdf> (or <http://tinyurl.com/6c86wg>)

Please refer to the bulletin for more details. **Camper Bob**

for the weight of your trailer,

2) Never spin a bearing with compressed air - serious injury could result if the rollers escape from the cage that holds them in place.

A good source of information on packing wheel bearings is at [www.rverscorner.com/articles/bearing1](http://www.rverscorner.com/articles/bearing1).

The condition of the bearings when removed and cleaned may display signs of potential future problems - including possible failure. If there is pitting, scoring or discoloration due to heat damage, you must replace the bearing and race as a set. If this becomes necessary, more effort, experience and the use of special tools made specifically for this task is required. Completion of this procedure must include new bearing seals, cotter pins and in some cases, new bearing caps.

Even if your bearings have been serviced recently, it is a good practice to check them frequently while traveling. Look for signs of abnormal wear at the center of the wheels. One technique many people use is just lay your hand on the bearing covers when you stop after traveling for some distance. If it is hot to the touch, the bearing may be over heating and could cause a problem or even fail. Bearing that are in the process of failing often are noisy. If you suspect a problem with a bearing, have someone walk along

next to the suspect wheel while the driver move slowly through a parking area or campground. If the bearing squeals or rumbles or is noisy, it must be inspected as soon as possible.

Finally, it is a good practice to carry a spare pair of the correct bearings for your Scamp. In addition, you should also keep an extra bearing cover in your tool box as they will occasionally "pop off" and expose the bearings to dirt and water - not a happy environment for your bearings.

Information for this Tech Corner was summarized from the Tect talk column by Reg DeYoung in the May/June *RVWEST* magazine.

## Adventures of the SOI Bird

The mascot was copied from picture (originally created by Kurt Cranson) and by Barb Collins from ceramic and was first passed to Dick and Dorothy Tate and spent the winter with them and their big cat. When



*I want you to know it gets really cold in northern Wisconsin!*



*LouAnn and Lyndon let me ride on the front of their truck.*



*Images by L/L..Laney & F./P. Glugla*

the SOI Bird arrived at Pat and Frank Glugla's, Pat made a ledger to keep track of his/her travels.

Here is a typical entry in the SOI Bird's ledger.

It is May 27, 2007 and we are at Nauvoo Ill at Doris Larson's Scrambled egg meet. I came with Pat and Frank Gulga and have been passed on to Lyndon & LouAnn Laney. It has been a good experience at Deer Brook, but sometimes trying. I came to know all the admittance people at the emergency room by first names.

Frank sort of reminds me of Benjamin Franklin and his Kite with the key. He is building a wind charger and wanted to know how many volts it puts out with a 20 mile an hour wind. So he



*One of the more exciting times was swimming in the St Croix River.*

mounted it on the front of his Dodge and drove 20 miles per hour.

My new keepers seem OK. The guy must have been working on his truck as he is wearing bib overalls. On day 2 would you believe these people get up at 5 AM. We headed for my new home early. He must be expecting problems with the truck as he is wearing bibs again. It is nice to ride in a truck that doesn't smell like a French fryer as that is what Frank burned in his. This guy has it quite easy as LouAnn does all the driving - Lyndon just steers.

We arrived at their home in mid southish Minnesota at their Farm amongst the rolling hills and the lakes. They gave the crop land back to God several years ago and planted it to trees. LouAnn dusted me off and placed me in a room full of Small statues of old people and dolls.

Next day. Would you believe 5 AM again and this dude forgot to change cloths [Bibs again]. He went to work in his 2 acre garden and she came with the dust cloth again! No real excitement here - just the Mailman each day. On June 1 they left for a

## SOI Members 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, send the following information for each badge, First Name, SOI #, City, State, shipping address along with a check to:

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

If using a credit card, you must include the type, number, expiration date, and name on card. Please allow 2 weeks for delivery.

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



3 day Bluegrass festival today and left me in this big old house with 350 statues of old couples and around 375 ceramic dolls - that's over 2000 eyes staring at me. Like the new kid on the block

On to the Camp meet at federal dam I will be leaving here with Deb and Jill of Hastings MN.

Report by L. & L. Laney, Annandale, MN.

## Future ScampCamps

**Letchworth Fiberglass Rally** - September 9 - 13, 2008 (Tues - Sat) 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.

**Fancy Gap ScampCamp** - October 14-16, 2008 (Tu-Th) for the annual Fancy Gap Scamp Camp. It is planned for mid-week since this is a busy time for the campground with many people going for the changing of the leaves. Most would arrive Monday p.m. (Oct 13) and leave on Friday morning. The campground does not take reservations, and you must pay with a personal check or cash—no credit cards. The rate is the same as last year, \$18.50 per night. I have contacted the campground and had them mark down our dates. In order to give them an idea of how many are coming, please e-mail me

at: jfreed1492@comcast.net if you are planning to attend. Like last year, there will be no strict schedule, but we will have a pot luck supper or two, some games of golfball horseshoes, crafts and side trips to Mt. Airy and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

**Jack Freed**

**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. Nearly 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 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?

## 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 a Scamp owner. 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 included with this newsletter as an attachment entitled "Hosting a ScampCamp Guidelines."

**"It's so simple to be wise, just think of something stupid to say and don't say it."**

*Sam Levenson*

## A DREAM TRIP

by **Betsey Holzhauer**

Spirit Lake, IA

Part 2



*Oregon Sand Dunes*

*Photographs by J. & B.  
Holzhauer*

A 3 1/2 hour ferry ride took us from Anacortes , WA , to Victoria , British Columbia, up through the San Juan Islands. Morning clouds lifted rapidly to show the many little towns on the islands that have the ferries as their only way to the mainland. In

Victoria we took our third tour of Butchart Gardens —a not to be missed highlight of that beautiful city, We stayed in Malahat Mountain Meadows campground with tons of very tall pine trees. Our kind of campground. Tours of Mill Bay, Cowichan Bay , and Duncan followed the next day.

The ferry ride from Victoria to Vancouver was about 90 minutes. The campground was a little less than desirable at Delta, BC, but then you can't win them all! We visited the Vancouver Aquarium which was superb. One problem with travel to touristy spots in May and June is school field trips. There were probably 500 kids there along with us.

We, too, went to

Kelowna on Lake Okanagan , and visited a lavender farm where we were about two weeks early to see the plants all in bloom. Next stop was Revelstoke. The clouds lifted enough for us to go up 15 km,



*Grand Tetons across Jackson Hole, Wyoming*

but there was snow above that level. Absolutely gorgeous.

Stops at Lake Louise and Banff and the Icefields Parkway (ably covered by Pat Stalnaker) and then on east through Alberta , and then south to Helena , Montana. Another superlative campground in East Glacier called Glacier Meadows RV Park where there were mountains all around and the campsites in a large, green meadow.

Glacier National Park was stunning, and most of the roads were open. We were not as impressed with Yellowstone as we had hoped. Too many miles between points of interest. Old Faithful was worth the 94 minute wait.

However, the highlight of the trip was the Grand Tetons. They are so huge and just thrust up from the ground so there are no foothills to mar the view. Wish we could have stayed longer.

We headed back through Wyoming , stopped for a few days in the Black Hills, and then back to northwest Iowa . An extraordinary trip — we are already planning a return visit.

Just a little aside: We alternate days for cooking and cleaning up. And we keep a daily log written by the one who has the day off. Works for us!

### SOI News

Summer 2008

Volume X Number 3

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Address communications and contributions to

**SOI News**

226 Iris Avenue, Lansing, MI 48917

517-321-2473

e-mail: [rcranson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rcranson@sbcglobal.net)