

# SOI

## News



Winter 2008

Scamp Owners International

Volume X Number 1



*Need more room in your Scamp? James and Julia Cassaday, Waynesville, NC added more space to their Scamp with this neat screen room. Photograph by J & J. Cassaday*

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## From the Editor's Desk

With the advent of winter, for those SOI folks that reside in the north, it's time to move south. Sharon and I will join this migration and should be heading to warm and sunny (I hope!) Florida as you are reading this issue of the *SOI News*. The plan is to spend January in and around Everglades National Park before meeting with other Scampers at Sebring for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary ScampCamp in Highlands Hammock State Park. It seems like just a short time ago that we drove into that park and noticed three other Scamps - that's where SOI started. I am hoping that some of those same Scamps will be in attendance for this gathering.

Over the past few months I have received several contributions of articles from SOI members telling of travels with their Scamp. They have been very encouraging and something I had hoped would happen - getting members to share their adventures with others. To my way of thinking, having members contributing is a mark that an organization, and its newsletter, has come of age. The second part of **Pat Stalaker's** article on Scamping in western Canada is featured in this issue, starting on page 16. And, there are two more waiting in the wings for future issues. Of course, members have been sharing their modifications and changes for many years, and there are several more great examples in this issue (see page 11). To encourage other SOI members to get in on all this fun, I have attached the Guidelines for Contributing to the *SOI*

*News* with the E-mail announcing this issue.

This issue marks the beginning of the second year of distributing the *SOI News* and other materials via E-mail. A little over a year ago, when we decided to try this method, I was not sure if it would even work or how it would be received by SOI members. It seems safe to report that it has worked out quite well in every way! While there has been a reduction in the total number of members, new members are joining every week. This is not much different than how it has been in the past - interests change and people move on to different activities. What I like about it is the improved quality of the newsletter with colored images and the ability to keep things up to date, like the *SOI Membership Directory*.

A couple of months ago a new SOI Membership Application arrived in the mail. As I was entering this new membership into the SOI records, I discovered that the next SOI Number to be assigned was 1,000! WOW - that landmark event had occurred. Scamp Owners International was only a year or so old when someone suggested it would be nice to have membership numbers. These could be placed on the Scamps and would key into the member's name. I reluctantly agreed and started assigning numbers based on when Scampers joined. In the years since the group started there have been over 1,000 memberships, can you believe it! Actually, the true number is more likely 1,800 or more since most memberships are for two people.

Alice Vernezze reported that there are over 40 trailers registered for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual ScampCamp at Highlands Hammock is Sebring, Florida. A number of special events are being planned for this anniversary gathering and Sharon and I are looking forward to seeing everyone again after a couple year's absence.

Rod



**Rod Cranson**

Editor

*A short hike up to Delicate Arch in Arches National Park, Utah.*

*Photographs by K R. Cranson*



*This special SOI 10th Anniversary Tote Bag filled with goodies for awaits each Scamp at the ScampCamp in Sebring during February. (see page 13 for more on the special SOI Tote Bag)*



# Letchworth Fiberglass Rally

September 11 - 15, 2007

By Richard Freed

Letchworth State Park (known as the Grand Canyon of the East) was host to the third annual Fiberglass Rally which attracted 7 Scamps, 5 Casitas, 1 Burro, 1 Boler, and one SOB (Some other Brand).

Tuesday evening was the hot dog roast/potluck followed by campfire with Jerry Triponey providing the music.

On Wednesday, Betty McAdams led a popular craft session, "making a Market Basket." It was a rather time consuming activity which ran most of the morning. In the afternoon, Dick Freed and Ray Johnson hosted the "Tech Talk" where members discussed problems they had with their trailers and solutions were offered. The afternoon was left free to explore the park, with its beautiful trails and waterfalls. The evening Potluck dinner was held at the "Pavilion 209" (a carport) followed by Card Bingo and a campfire.

Thursday was a busy day with Lynda Freed offering a food craft session, after which the group picture was taken by Steve McAdams. The afternoon was taken with a road trip to three of the local wineries, where the members toured and tasted. Thanks to Wayne and Gerri Felker



Betty McAdams leads in the craft time "making a Market Basket."



Participants gather for the traditional group photograph  
all photographs by Steve McAdams

who had arrived early and scouted out some of the wineries in the area. On the way back to camp, we stopped in Geneseo and had a nice dinner at the Ponderosa. Campfire followed when we arrived back at camp.

On Friday morning, we opened our trailers for the customary "Egg Tour." Friday afternoon was an R & R time for most of the campers, but some went to the Letchworth Dam Tour, offered by the park (Free!). The Rec Center was opened for the weekend, and we had our final potluck dinner there, followed by Card Bingo and a campfire.

Saturday morning coffee and donuts were provided by Dick and Lynda Freed. Then, almost everyone broke camp and headed back to their homes. We had campers from 8 states and Canada who participated in the rally. Dates for next year were set for the same week, September 9 - 13, 2008.



Scampers raise their glasses during one of the winery tours.



Campers gather for coffee and donuts before departing for home.

## Fancy Gap ScampCamp

October 15 - 17, 2007

The Gathering at Fancy Gap along the Blue Ridge Parkway was initiated by Merle and Beverley Lilly of Sarasota, FL. Merle called a few SOI Members in the region and Jack Freed picked up the idea and put an announcement on the internet. The results were amazing - 20 participants in 12 Scamps attended with very short notice. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> ScampCamp at Utt's Campground just west of the Fancy Gap interchange along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Since this ScampCamp was informal, there was not a strict schedule of activities, but a number of events were planned for the meeting. Judy Freed

hosted a crafts event and Jack Freed brought his now famous Golf Ball Horseshoes game for everyone to try their skill. Naturally, there was a potluck in the campground recreation hall with sloppy joes followed by music and singing featuring Dick Freed. Another SOI tradition is the evening campfire at Merle's campsite - Clyde Davis provided the entertainment with his guitar. Following the usual SOI custom, the group picture was scheduled for early afternoon in front of the campground office.

Beyond these, participants had a choice of many other activities in the area including visits to Mt. Airy, NC, the legendary hometown of Andy Griffith and inspiration for Mayberry, NC featured in the long running TV show from the 1960s. Heading west a short distance is Hillsville and Galax, two small Virginia towns with dining, shopping and other activities of interest. Of course, the Blue Ridge Parkway was just a few minutes from the campground and offered miles of scenic views and a fascinating historical journey into life from the early years among the Appalachian Mountain people.

The weather was fine and hopes were high for some great fall colors as the leaves began to turn. On the morning everyone planned to depart, the fog was so bad we "couldn't see in front of our nose." One of the Scamps started down toward the main road (the campground sits high on a hill) and called back that conditions were better at a lower elevation. Slowly, everyone inched down and headed for I-77 and home.

Report from information provided by **Merle and Beverley Lilly** and **Jack and Judy Freed**.



*SOI Members gather for an informal ScampCamp at Fancy Gap, VA, along the Blue Ridge Parkway. 1/2 - Jack/Judy Freed, 3/4 - Merle/Beverley Lilly, 5/6 - Lynda/Dick Freed, 7 - Bill Walters, 8 - Jerry Jacobs, 9 - Dennis Archer, 10 - Clyde Davis, 11/12 - Gerry/Wayne Felker, 13/14 - Barbara/Neil Kyle, 15/16 - Joyce/Pete Wright, 17/18 - Steve/Bett McAdams. Bill and Connie Castle not shown.*

*Photograph by Steve McAdams*



## “Eggs” Rally

About twenty “eggs” gathered September 21-23, 2007 at Eagle Cliff Campground just outside of Lanesboro, MN for the Lanesboro Fiberglass RV Rally. Once again, the event was hosted by Jim and Jonell Hoivind.

Eagle Cliff Campground is nestled in a deep valley of the Root River with beautiful views of the surrounding limestone bluffs. Nearby Lanesboro offers many unique shops, a local winery, wonderful dining, and the paved Root River State Bike Trail.

Campers began arriving Friday evening and met for a getting-to-know-you campfire. Saturday morning was spent touring the various fiberglass campers, which included lots of Scamps, a Boler, a Casita, a U-Haul, and a Burro. Many spent the afternoon shopping in Lanesboro, while others biked or enjoyed

canoeing on the Root River. Everyone gathered for a potluck Saturday evening, followed by a campfire and lots of Lyndon Laney’s home-grown popcorn.

The weekend was over all too quickly as we said goodbye and headed on our way on Sunday. Jim has already planned next year’s rally at Eagle Cliff for September 19-21, 2008. Report by **Deb Foster**, Hastings, MN.



*What’s a fiberglass gathering without a potluck? Photographs by Deb Foster*

## BIG MAC

The bridge that connects Michigan’s two peninsulas at the Straits of Mackinac, the Big Mac, celebrated it’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in November 2007. Constructions began in May 1954 and required 42 months to complete and cost 100 million dollars. It is considered a marvel of engineering and construction that in-



*The official transfer of the SOI Bird Mascot from Deb Foster and Jill Holmes to Tony and Darlene Nowak.*



*View of the “Big Mac” from the city park in Mackinaw City at the tip of Michigan’s southern peninsula. Photograph by K R. Cranson*



*In 1952, the Michigan Highway Department acquired the 10,000 horsepower, 360-foot "Vacationland," an icebreaker. It was the last ferry constructed, costing \$4,745,000. It carried nearly 150 cars and trucks. The five-vessel fleet had a total carrying capacity of 500 vehicles. courtesy photograph*

cluded many innovations introduced by Chief Engineer David Steinman. Mighty Mac, as the bridge is commonly called, is 26,372 feet long (over 5 miles) connecting Mackinaw City in

Michigan's lower peninsula with St. Ignace on the north side.

The piers securing the bridge are the deepest structure ever sunk in constructing a suspension bridge, up to 230 feet deep in some places. These towers rise well over 100 feet above the surface of Lake Michigan and descend as much as 100 feet below its surface to reach bedrock. At 3,800 feet the central suspended span is the 3<sup>rd</sup> longest in the United States and the total suspended length of the bridge is 8,344 feet, longest in the Western Hemisphere.

There were three challenges that had to be solve in designing and building Big Mac; high winds, deep water, and ice accumulations. All of these were addressed and solved by Steinman and incorporated in the final plans. Many of these techniques form the basis for bridge design and construction to this day.

Prior to the opening of the bridge, travels heading across the Straits of Mackinac were served by a fleet of 5 car ferries operated by the Michigan

Department of State Highways. Winter was a difficult time for the ferries as ice formed on the lake surface greatly reducing the number of boats in service. krc

## Scamping Away from Motels

When asked to work temporarily, half-time for the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Madison, Wisconsin, 85 miles from our home in Oshkosh, it didn't take me long to choose my method of accommodations. The job required one overnight in Madison each week – sometimes two.

The thought of living one or two nights each week in motels gave me pause. Sleeping in a used bed, bedding of questionable cleanliness, carpets soiled with who-knows-what, and most of all, bad coffee in the breakfast room each morning, all amounted to a real turnoff. So, I pressed into service our 16 foot 1996 Scamp. I looked forward to long evenings in the snug environment, cooking food I like (I don't like restaurants either), reading, and arising to a cup of my favorite strong java.

A stroll through the darkened park before going to bed contributed to a good night's sleep. Meeting and getting to know the campground hosts was a fringe benefit



*Reverend Tom McFarland with his 16' Scamp "motel" leaving for his weekly trip to Madison. Photograph by T. McFarland*

of this method of travel. In addition, I felt good about the stewardship of submitting lower expenses to the treasurer. He couldn't help but comment on the \$22 camping fees as opposed to \$75 or more for a motel room. The food costs were so low I rarely submitted them. I did take a financial hit on the mileage reimbursement because of the reduced gas economy from towing a travel trailer. To me it was a happy tradeoff. **Rev. Tom McFarland**, Oshkosh, WI

### What's New

#### Geocaching - Earthcaching

Geocaching is a popular and growing high-tech game of treasure hunting. Players seek out hidden treasures utilizing the Global Positioning System (GPS) and coordinates posted on the Internet by those hiding the cache. Players trek out into the backwoods or urban jungles to find the hiding spot of the cache. Once found, a cache may provide the visitor with a wide variety of rewards. If the visitor takes something out of the cache, they are asked to leave something in return. For many, the thrill of the search and the discovery of a place that they have never been is the major reward.

This growing outdoor sport has a simple set of rules, making it easy for anyone to play. The challenging part is finding the cache. Some caches have even been planted on mountainsides and underwater! Once searcher finds a cache, they follow these basic rules: 1) Fill out the logbook, 2) Take something out of the cache, 3) Put something in the cache, and 4) return the cache to the exact position and condition in which it was found.

Caches typically consist of a water-

proof container discreetly placed within the local terrain. The container will include a logbook and any number of more or less valuable items such as toys, books, money, jewelry, trinkets, etc. You never know what the founder or other visitors of the cache may have left for you to enjoy. Finder should be sure to fill out the logbook with the date and time you visit the cache and leave something in return.

There are over 440,000 geocaches registered on various websites devoted to the sport. Geocaches are currently placed in 222 countries around the world and on all seven continents, including Antarctica. To participate in geocaching, you will need a GPS unit to help you find or mark cache locations and Internet access for finding or sharing the coordinates. There are a number of brands of GPS receivers including Garmin, Megellan and TomTom. They range in price from less than \$100 and up to several hundred dollars, depending on the features included.

Earthcaches is a variation of Geocaching that features virtual caches with educational value. Visitors learn in-





terpretive information about the Earth at the site. Earth caching involves reading educational notes about a location on the Earthcache website then locating the feature using the global positioning system. The activity is science-based, self-directed education targeted to the general public. Caches are located in both urban and rural areas and on private or public lands such as National Parks, National Forests or BLM Lands.

You can learn more about Geocaching and Earthcaching by entering the terms into your search engine.

*Editor's Note - Just wondering if there are SOI Members who participate in Geocaching and would be willing to share their experiences with others?*

## Modifications and Changes Index

Over the nine years that the *SOI News* has been published there have been nearly 90 entries featuring modifications, changes and technical information that SOI Members have reported for their Scamps. An eight page index is now available listing all these and where they can be found. They have been cataloged into the following categories: Storage-Inside/Outside, Tables, Seats and Beds, Doors and Windows, Awning and Clotheslines, Sinks, Stoves, Counters and Water Tanks, TVs and TV Antennas, Lights and Electrical, Decorating-Inside/Outside, Solar, Propane, Satellite Dish and Air Conditioning, Bumpers and Hitches, Tires, Wheels, Axles and Brakes, Storage. If you would like a

copy of *An Index of Modifications and Changes from the SOI News*, just send your request to the editor at [rcranson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rcranson@sbcglobal.net). It will be sent as an attachment to a return message ASAP.



### JAMBALAYA

(using leftover ham)

Mary Blasko, New Jersey

1/4 C oil 1/4 tsp. black pepper  
 1/2 C rice 1/4 tsp. red pepper  
 1/4 C onion, chopped 1 lg. bay leaf  
 1/2 C green pepper, chopped  
 3 C boiling water  
 1/4 C celery, chopped  
 2 C leftover ham  
 1 can shrimp

Heat oil. Add vegetables and rice and cook until lightly browned, about 6 minutes. Add the seasonings and water, blend well. Cover, bring to a boil and then cook slowly until rice is tender and mixture is thickened, about 20 minutes. Add diced, cooked ham and the drained, rinsed shrimp. Reheat. Yield 6 servings.

*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](mailto:ezzeal@bellsouth.net) or by phone: 321-773-2676.*

### Ten Years of SOI

Four Scamp owners happened to be camped in Highlands Hammock State Park



just west of Sebring, Florida during January of 1999. They chatted about a common interest, their Scamp trailers, and wondered if some kind of an organization would be useful. It was decided to produce a newsletter for Scamp owners and send it out to as many as they could locate. Each of the group knew a few others and the list eventually grew to about 30 names of people who had a Scamp. The first issue was published in the spring of 1999 and was sent to the list created at that first gathering - the 1999 ScampCamp. Scamp Owners International was "born!"

The word spread quickly and that original mailing produced a "flood" of others who had a Scamp and the newsletter, the *SOI News*, soon was being sent out to a much larger group. As that first year passed, the number of people receiving the newsletter grew to 125 Scamp owners across the U.S. Over the succeeding years, membership in Scamp Owners International grew at a rate of about a hun-



*The "first" ScampCamp at Highlands Hammock, Florida with (L-R) Bill and Shirley Johnson, Raymond and Evelyn Davis, Rod and Sharon Cranson, and Bob and Carolee Anderson. January 20, 1999.*

*Photographs by K R., Cranson*



dred a year. Over the nine years since that first "chance meeting" at Sebring, there have been nearly 2000 people who are or have been SOI Members!

The idea of holding Scamp camp outs in various parts of the country began with the first formal gathering in northern Michigan near the little town of Newberry. It was billed as a UP fall color ScampCamp and attracted 14 members in 8 Scamps from as far away as Florida and Colorado. New York and Pennsylvania were also represented along with Michigan. It was a fun time with visits to the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Tahquamenon Falls, the Soo Locks at Sault Ste Marie and several lighthouses along the Lake Superior coast.

ScampCamps have been hosted by many SOI Members all across the U.S. and continue to attract Scamp owners, and others who have small fiberglass RVs. The 2008 ScampCamp in Highlands Hammock State Park will be the 10<sup>th</sup> annual gathering - the longest running of any of the camp outs for Scamp owners. It promises to be a fun time with lots of activities and some very special events for those who plan to attend. krc

*The first "official" ScampCamp in Michigan's UP - September 21-25, 1999. (L-R) John Haag-PA, Allen and Hazel Jeffrey-MI, Merle and Beverley Lilly-FL, Doug and Ginny Smith (with Tasha)-MI, Arlan and Barb Hogsett-CO, Bruce and Tena Milne-NY, Rod and Sharon Cranson-MI, Lloy Bishop-CO.*



**Backus Visit** - We met a lot of great Scampers and had a good time with campfires (good picking 'n singing by Don Lattimer and Dwane Pederson), huge pan of popcorn by Lyndon Laney (he and Lou Ann were busy helpers). We had an interesting tour of the Scamp factory, played card bingo and had a white elephant drawing. Ron got some pointers at the Tech Session while I took too many pictures of the sunset from the dam. Jerry Bentler said we had 42 sites occupied and we really appreciated the spacious sites! **Peg and Ron Bartels**, Coon Rapids, MN.

have our rain protection as we have camped in tents for years with lots of rain challenges.

The coup of the summer was Yellowstone where the Scamp came through again with warmth in very cold night temperatures. We actually saw a Scamp like homemade outfit showing that small is better ( pictured here). I am sure that we do not have to tell dedicated Scamp owners how much we love this new camping experience. Slowly but surely we are modifying the inside for us and making it into a home away from home. We really read avidly all the modifications people have made. **Jeanne and George Parkhurst**, Woodland, CO.



*Parkhurst's 2007 16-foot side dinette Scamp at a Colorado campground. Pictures by G. & J. Parkhurst*

**Summer Scamping Adventures** - We began our Scamp journey at Backus December 2006 and were able to accomplish five trips in 2007. We shared our experience at Arches National Monument in Utah in a previous newsletter. After that we spent time at Ridgeway State Park and hiked the Ouray, Colorado area. This was our first time surrounded by the big rigs and we felt like a little mushroom in the midst!! We loved the handling and simplicity of camping in the scamp. Our next adventure was at Lake Irwin near Crested Butte, Colorado. The campground was 9 miles on a rough dirt road and we finally learned how to keep everything battened down!!

**Quiet Summer** - No big pulls to Alaska or throughout North America this year, as in the past. With the gas prices and limited vacation time at any one point in the year, I've kept myself in Missouri. While Missouri has a lot of neat State Parks, I like to get off the beaten path into Mark Twain National Forest and Missouri's "Wilderness Areas." My 16' 2001 SCAMP pulls easy via a 2006 Chrysler Town 'N Country Mini Van on USFS back roads. **Melvin Johnson**, Springfield, MO



*George and Jeanne discovered this small U-Haul trailer during their summer travels.*

For the time being we are sticking with Western venues and the next was Rampart Range right above us here in Woodland where we could fish, hike and just sit and relax while the temps cooked away down the pass. It was a rainy weekend and friends who were tenting squashed in with us for hours of card playing and we felt so good to

**Regional Chapters** - In the past there has been some discussion regarding SOI Chapters in various parts of the country. **Wayne Collins** suggests there may already be some degree of "regionalization" with the various ScampCamps that take place around the country. And there may be folks who are natural leaders, in those areas that would be able and willing to serve as hosts. It is nice, though, to go to different sites and see new things, instead of taking the "easy" way by returning to the same campground each year. He also is wondering about the location of an annual "Inter-

national” rally. How about Branson, MO?  
**Wayne Collins**, Dubuque, IA

**NM Scamp Friends** - If you have plans to visit southern New Mexico, you may wish to make note of **Fred** and **Rhonda Lewis’** address and phone number. They have offered to assist anyone coming into that part of the state - they live in Deming and there are many interesting sites to visit in their area.

**Hi to all Scampers** - Dick and I, after nine years camping with our Scamp, we have sold our 5th wheel. We fell in love with a Fun Finder Fiberglass pull trailer. It is the same size as the scamp but no stairs and with a slide out. So keep camping and we will see you all down the road. **Dick** and **Lois Hanson** (SOI # 46), Tucson, AZ.

**Airport Scamping** - We wanted to send you this picture of Marie and I with our Scamp 13 and our friend’s Scamp 16. We are camped beside runway 23 and 3 in Greenville Maine to attend the International Seaplane fly-in this September. The seaplane base is 1 mile away on Moosehead Lake. They had over 300 seaplanes. Notice, I did try some solar panels but they were only 15 watts and not enough power to make a difference. Plenty of room for more Scamps next year. **Richard** and **Marie Mayrand**, Lebonon, MA



Picture by R. & M. Mayrand

## Modifications and Changes

The following modifications were completed on a 1987 13-foot standard Scamp by **Nevin Lescher**, Winsor Locks, CT. He tows his Scamp with a ‘87 VW Vangon West

**New Heater** - A 110V electric heater was built-in the right hand cabinet under the sink. I used a Pelonis Model HC-441W ceramic heater from Home Depot. It is mounted on a platform with a 10-degree tilt so the face of the heater is more or less vertical. A new cabinet door was custom fitted to match the contour of the heater face. The tip-over safety switch was disabled as the heater is bolted to the platform but still has the overheat protection in place. To allow adequate air flow into the lower cabinet and through the heater, two 3" louvers are mounted in the doors. New chrome handles were added, not only to these doors, but to all cabinet doors and all were refaced with oak grain contact paper. This project was carried out during the winter months and the little 1500 watt heater did a great job of making the interior of the Scamp comfortable.

**Screen Door** - When we acquired the Scamp one of the previous owners had built a screen door from 1" square aluminum tubing and sheet stock but never really finished it on the wood frame. One of the first projects was to take the door and frame apart so I could prime and paint it with rustoleum satin white on the outside and almond on the interior. It was re-screened, rehung and





the “crash bar” added. As the screen did not give much privacy with the main door open, and the fact that there was enough depth (~ 1") in the screen frame, I decided to fit a Venetian mini blind into it. The smallest width I could find was 21" and the screen width was 19", meant that I had to disassemble the blind and trim each louver to 19." To keep the blind from flapping around in the opening, two 1" aluminum strips were screwed to the frame to confine the blind in a vertical tract. It works great and allows plenty of ventilation as well as privacy with the adjustable louvers.



**Entertainment System** - The CD/ Radio/ Cassette Stereo is built into a shelf in the upper front cabinet. The shelf is wide enough for the main frame, right hand speaker and one auxiliary speaker. Under the shelf I

mounted a 40 channel CB with its antenna mounted on the forward awning bracket. Also, under the shelf is an omni directional antenna for the FM stereo and TV. The left hand speaker is mounted on the other side of the cabinets with the original Scamp 12V interior light underneath it. The right-light was relocated to the right side of the wardrobe cabinet where the fire extinguisher was.



**Electronic Panel** - The screen door frame has sufficient depth (~ 4") to accommodate an

over-the-door “electronic” panel. It is hardly electronic, but consists from left to right: 1) small digital indoor/outdoor thermometer, 2) 12V porch light for additional interior lighting, 3) battery powered weather channel radio, and 4) 12V DC meter with test push button to check battery voltage. All are custom fitted in the panel and mounted on top of the door frame giving a smooth, flush appearance in the interior of the screen door. As the frame is wide, there was enough room along the left side (at its midpoint) for a convenient place to mount the fire extinguisher.

### Quartz

**Clock** - The quartz clock is mounted in the center of the wardrobe closet door. It is a battery-powered inexpensive clock with the face redone in a more colorful manner.



Note: Believe me, these projects may keep you feeling young and healthy. But, if you are not up to it in experience, projects like these can be a real bear. They involve a lot of trial and error fitting and bending yourself into places that even our cat could not get into and plenty of patience!

**Protective Cover** - A California company, Calmark, offers custom made covers for small fiberglass RVs like Scamps. All CalMark covers are constructed of sunbrella fabric, designed for outdoor exposure, and have a Full 6-year Warranty. This material protects a trailer’s fiberglass shell from the sun’s UV radiation and winter conditions of snow/ice. They

offer a packet that includes fabric samples, brochure, measuring template and important information regarding their Fabric Stress Reinforcement construction. Be sure to include Type make of RV, year, model and length. Send your request via E-mail at: [calmarkcoverdoug@verizon.net](mailto:calmarkcoverdoug@verizon.net). You can also check out their Website at: <http://www.calmarkcovers.com> or call **Toll Free: 800-838-7236** with any questions you may have.



**New Drawers** - Here are several pictures of my latest project; the long drawer was completed this past Spring; the short drawer completed in November, may be the last of the drawer projects. Scamp provides the long drawer (silverware drawer) in their Dinnette 16' model and the pull- out short drawer under the sink in their Deluxe model, so these modifications are not a new idea. The two drawers below the closet have been in use for a number of years now and were well worth the effort. The long drawer on the right is our "JUNK" drawer; it contains flash lights, screw drivers and everything



else that you can imagine. Mary says that the "SHORT" drawer will contain the can opener, wine

bottle corkscrew extractor, church key, and potato peeler. Who knows, there may be enough room for a pickle fork. **Steve and Mary Blasko**, Glendora, NJ

### Future ScampCamps

**ScampCamp 2008** -- February 12-16, 2008 (Tues-Fri) at Sebring. Florida is planned for our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual ScampCamp at Highlands Hammock State Park. An Early Bird Night on the 11<sup>th</sup> and a special activity is being planned. An agenda will be sent to everyone that has email. If you are planning to attend, reservations should be made as soon as possible. To place a reservation, have your credit card ready and call 800-326-3521. Request a campsite number between 71 -138. Once you have a reservation, please contact **Alice Vernezze** at [ezzeal@bellsouth.net](mailto:ezzeal@bellsouth.net) or PH: 321-773-2676. Alice needs the following information: 1) Names of all attending; 2) City & State; 3) Site number; 4) Dates attending; 5) SOI number; 6) size of Scamp or trailer and 7) is a name tag needed?



10th Anniversary SOI Tote Bags are available for \$8.00 including postage. Send your request and check to SOI, 226 Iris Ave. Lansing, MI 48917

### 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 *Guidelines for Hosting a ScampCamp*.

**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) - all our sites fill and only sites in another section of the campground are available, 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. And, 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 to 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, fire wood, 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 (all in W-area) 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 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.

### Continued from page 16

drop on one side of an incredible glacier and attendant snowy peaks, and on the opposite end a beautiful lodge (or chateau) that would have quickly dissipated our limited bank account if we had stayed there. But just to see it was worth the 5,250 miles we drove on the whole trip. We stayed in an NP campground nearby.



*The SO Bird sez:*

*"Thinking about hosting a ScampCamp? Be sure to check out the ScampCamp Guidelines attached to this issue."*



We finished our Canadian stay with a stop in Kelowna, B.C., which sits astride beautiful (and long) Okanagan Lake. This is a much more temperate weather zone in Canada and the home of the country's growing wine industry. For enthusiasts, there are some fine wineries there and worthy of a stop if you're so inclined. There are plenty of RV parks and campgrounds along Okanagan Lake and therefore is a wonderful stopover for a night or two. Also a great stop for groceries, coin laundry, and general catch-up from the breathtaking beauty of the Canadian Rockies.

Our trip south toward home included stops in several of our own national parks: North Cascades NP in northern Washington State, with beauty similar to Canada, just on a smaller scale. We then stopped at Mt. Rainier NP, with there was much snow remaining in some campgrounds, on the mountain, and on many of the hikes. We took a 2-mile walk in the



Winter's Last Grip: Icy flows still crowd this lake along the Icefield Parkway between Banff and Jasper National Parks.

snow there. Next was Crater Lake NP which our editor writes about regularly and it's worth every word he writes—a place of natural beauty that defies description. The blue of its water is something to behold.



*The Grandeur of Lake Louise: Part of the beauty of this well-known Canadian lake is the age-old chateau sitting on the shore facing a glacier on the other side.*

We then stopped for two nights at Lava Beds National Monument and Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge in northern Calif. Both are interesting places to see. After dodging the huge fire at Lake Tahoe (where we were going to stay), we went on the one of our favorite places in California (or anywhere), Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park, the upper part of Yosemite. As in all of this park, the hikes, scenery, mountain peaks, and geographical features, such as Lembert Dome, were incredibly inviting and reminded us that California has as much beauty as many other magical places such as Lake Louise.

One might ask: Why did you go in early June to North Canada—wasn't it still cold? Well, we went for two reasons: one, friends of ours who still work (we're retired) could only go at this time. They flew up and stayed for a week in Jasper and Banff. Second, the Canadians flock there after July first and it gets very overcrowded. We packed warmies and raingear and had a great time.

**Questions? My E-mail is**  
*patandmarianne@cox.net*



*Getting Your Goat: Why did the male mountain bighorn sheep cross the road? Possibly to butt into traffic?*

## Beauty Beyond Belief

By Pat Stalnaker, San Diego, CA  
Part 2

Our first night in Canada we stayed in Kootenay National Park (NP) near the town of Radium Hot Springs, famous for its hot baths. Not only did we visit the refreshing baths, but also enjoyed dinner at Helena's Stube Viennese restaurant where the schnitzel is to die for. Kootenay isn't the only national park in this vicinity; there's also Yoho, Banff, Jasper, Mt. Revelstoke and Canada's Glacier National Parks. They're all beautiful, although some offer much more than others. We stopped or stayed in all of them, but spent most of the time in Banff and Jasper.

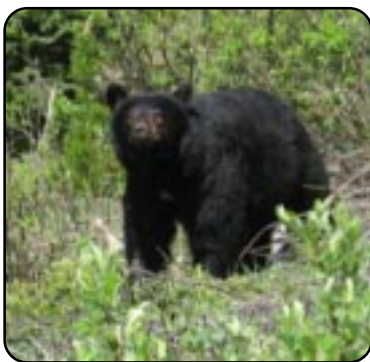


*Walking On (Frozen) Water: Pat and Marianne took a two-mile hike in the snow in the shadow of Mt. Rainier.*

All photographs by P. & M.  
Stalnaker

When you're there, high, snow-covered peaks, beautiful lakes (some still frozen), incredible glaciers, fast rivers cutting their way through young valleys and endless stands of trees are just everyday or every-moment occurrences. We haven't even talked about the wild animals to be seen: bears, moose, elk, bighorn sheep, countless deer varieties, antelope, foxes, coyotes, wolves, and many species of birds, including bald eagles.

But the highlight of any trip to this part of Canada is the Icefields Parkway, the incredible road that takes you from Banff NP in the south to Jasper NP in the north. It's a wondrous trip in its own right and includes the Columbia Icefield where several glaciers converge and the ice you stand on is 1,000 feet thick. Buses with six huge tires take you



*Grin and Bear It: We stopped when we saw other visitors photographing this "cute" little black bear. Fortunately it was not a grizzly.*

into the middle of it all. Don't forget your warmies for this one!

At Jasper NP we stayed at the Whistler's Campground, part of the national park. It seems that all of the large Canadian NP campgrounds have showers and hook-ups, but are very large and have that parking-lot kind of feel. At \$25 or more a night, they're also relatively expensive. Oh posh, you say, the Canadian dollar is worth less than ours so it just seems expensive. Well, wake up folks; the U.S. dollar is very weak now and as far as the Canadians are concerned, the dollars are equal. And, by the way, we paid about \$5 a gallon for gasoline. Don't be fooled by driving into a gas station there and seeing \$1.25 on the sign. That's per liter, about the capacity of an American quart.

The town of Jasper is charming, not too large, and a stop on the transcontinental Canadian rail route. There are wonderful restaurants, pubs, hikes, and even a quaint and beautiful coin laundry—a very important stop! The town of Banff in the south is similar to Jasper, but much larger and not as quaint.

A word about Lake Louise, a place I had aspired to visit all of my adult life. It did not disappoint us it has a back-

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### SOI News

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