

# SOI News



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*This old 13-foot Scamp and tow vehicle were spotted in Sarasota, FL during Christmastime.  
Photograph by Miki Segelke, Wayne & Gerry Felker's granddaughter*

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## From the Editor's Desk

It has been a long, snowy, cold winter in Michigan. I am sure ready for a little warm weather and the opportunity to get our Scamp out for a little travel. We are planning to attend the gathering in Northern Wisconsin near the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in June. Check out the details on the Scambled Egg event on page 13.



### Rod Cranson

#### Editor

*The Lighthouse on South Manitou Island, in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, greets visitors. See Joy Avila's report on her Great Lakes trip on page 16. Photograph by K R. Cranson*

Alice and Jack Vernezze's report from the 2009 ScampCamp held at Highlands Hammock State Park in Sebring, Florida details a great time. More than ninety people attended camping out in forty-eight trailers. Some twenty-one states were represented - with one camper all the way from California! They had some great help with traditional ScampCamp events; Tech Session, Recipe Exchange, Great Give Away, Group Photograph, Card Bingo, Craft Time and more. What a great bunch of Scampers! Everyone is already looking forward to ScampCamp 2010 - I know we are!

A special "Thanks" goes out to SOI Members who have contributed to this issue of the SOI News. **Joy Avila** shares her three month trip throughout the Great Lakes states with a number of stops in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and other states (see page 16). **Lyndon Laney** for sharing his idea about "tired axles," an interesting solution for older Scamps. **Donna Johnston**, for the image of her painting of a Scamp waiting for spring.

**Alice Vernezze**, for sharing another SOI recipe (submitted by **Linda Freed**) from her great *SOI Cookbook*.

Over the years a number of members have suggested that we prepare an SOI Patch for our group. Recently, the company that makes our SOI Wear items started offering patches. These are now available - see page 11 and the SOI Wear flier for details.

SOI Members who have been with our Scamp Owners group for a few years will remember the semi-regular column called "The SOI Profile." I would like to re-establish this feature and am looking for a few "volunteers" that would be willing to share some of their experiences with others, especially those with their Scamp. If you would like to see yourself in print, please let me know and I will send you an SOI Profile Form to compete.

I am excited about the number of ScampCamps being planned for this summer and early fall - there are three listed on the Future ScampCamps page 13. I hope you will be able to attend one - Sharon and I are considering the New York meeting in September. It is also time to make your reservations for ScampCamp 2010 in Sebring to get a good campsite in Highlands Hammock State Park.

Of course, everyone is worrying and wondering about the economy - when will (if?) it turn around again? You may recall that Sharon and I spent August traveling to Oregon with our Scamp and fuel prices were over \$4.00/gal. It was a scary situation. Now we are wondering about how the current downturn will affect our decisions about travel in the future? Our Oregon trip cost nearly \$2,000 just for fuel. Should we curtail travel in favor of saving money as a hedge against a protracted and uncertain economy? What to do? What are you planning to do?

Rod



## ScampCamp 2009

February 10 - 14

Highlands Hammock State Park

Reported by Alice Vernezze

There were 48 trailers, 91 Attendees, 21 States represented, and the farthest distance away was California.

**Saturday** the 7<sup>th</sup> We arrived and there were quite a few Scampers that had arrived already. The weather cooperated and started to warm up. Every day it got warmer and no rain this year - we had fantastic weather.

**Sunday** the 8<sup>th</sup> A small group went to "Hen Scratch Farm." A few more Scampers checked into Highlands Hammock State Park. Then, in the evening, the park volunteers had a party and they invited 3 couples of our group to join them. The food and company were great and later we had our first campfire.

**Monday** the 9<sup>th</sup> In the evening we had our Chili Dump - the highlight of the evening. Wayne Felker was our fire master and he did a fantastic job. His wife, Gerry, took over setting up the food table. She was a big help. We have so many



*Scampers dip into the pot for a bowl of chili at the annual Chili Dump.*

*Photograph by F. & S. McCool*



*ScampCamp campers gather for the traditional camp photograph.*

*Photograph by S. McAdams*

good cooks in our group! Some didn't bring chili, but made casseroles & desserts. I'm sure we all gained 5 pounds. We had a two quart pan of Chili left for Tuesday's hot dogs.

**Tuesday** the 10<sup>th</sup> Almost all the remaining Scampers arrived. Carolee Anderson delivered all the envelopes to the Scampers. In the evening we gathered for Hot dogs that were furnished by Rod and Sharon Cranson. We all missed seeing them and it was suggested we should send them a "Miss You" card. There were two others that couldn't join us because of health issues. Everyone signed a sheet to wish them well. We had a friendly chat around the fire.

**Wednesday** the 11<sup>th</sup> At 9:30 am we held Tech Time at Bob Anderson's site, assisted by Wayne Felker. It was very informative and many problems were solved. Then, at 11:00 am, we toured all the Scamps along with many outsiders that had come to Highlands



*The Official SOI Bird attended the '09 ScampCamp in Sebring.*



*Scampers gather to chat about technical matters at the annual Tech Talk hosted by Bob Anderson and*

*Wayne Felker. Photograph by S. McAdams*



*Judy Johnson instructs some of the ladies during the Craft Time session.*

*Photograph by F. & S. McCool*

Hammock. The visitors were interested in seeing all the trailers and were also interested in buying any that were for sale. I think that two were sold. Some wanted to see all sizes, so they could find out if there was enough room for their needs. Two members have several trailers to sell.

At 4:00 pm we got most of the Scampers together for our group portrait. Steve added the names of each person to the picture - he did a great job on this project. He made prints and sold them to campers for \$2.00. They were a wonderful souvenir to take home for your scrapbook.

In the evening, at 6:00 pm, we went to the park's Recreation Hall for the Wednesday evening all park "get together." Good food and lots of fellowship. It was a full day but it didn't end there. We had a few Scampers, Al and Susan Schroepfer, Dick Freed, and Jim Converse, all joined another group from the park for a total of 7 or 8 entertainers. We all sang along with the music. What fun!

Then of course we spent the rest of the night around the fire. Getting to know all the new Scampers and renewing our friendships from past years. It is so nice to see them at least once a year - this is what is so special about this ScampCamp. The people are the best part of our experience.

**Thursday** the 12<sup>th</sup> At 9:00 am we met at the Recreation Hall for donuts, coffee, biscuits and homemade Jam. Yummy! At 9:30 am the women all got

together at the back table as Linda Freed led the group to exchange recipes with one another. As noted above, there are fantastic cooks in our group. At 11:00 am we drove to Homers in Sebring for the annual "eat some great food" event.

We returned to the park for the 1:30 pm gathering of "The Great Giveaway." We had a new winner for the Puzzle Game, Phillip and Catherine Harkins, that earned them the first pick for a Great Giveaway prize. We would like to thank Sam's Club for their donation of \$25 toward prizes. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year they have contributed. Better luck next year to the runners up of our contest - I'll try to make it easier next year.

In the evening, the park volunteers made 11 kinds of great homemade soups which sold for \$1 a bowl. What a bargain! After that luscious meal we played a dozen hands of Card Bingo. To top off a perfect day, we sat by the fire for our nightly chat.

**Friday** the 13<sup>th</sup> Oooooo NO !!! but all went well! At 10:00 am Bob Anderson led a walk in the park. Everyone was very pleased, they even saw an alligator.

Then, at 11:30 am, Lynda Freed and Debbie Clark gathered the women together again for our traditional Craft Time. Debbie taught us how to make the cutest "ornament shaped like an egg trailer" - it was great fun. Then Lynda taught us how to make a "Swifter Duster" with a coat hanger and some remnants of yarn. These two ladies are amazing.

At 5:00 pm we gathered for our final meal together - and our final fire side chat that turned into a round of sharing stories and jokes. A great end to a wonderful ScampCamp. As a lot have said, this ScampCamp was the best ever.

**Saturday** the 14<sup>th</sup> in the morning



*Several SOI Members contributed a square to the Highlands Hammock Quilt created annually as a fund raisers for the park.*

*Photograph by S. McAdams*



most of us were packing and saying our goodbyes to all. Until we meet again next year.

*Editor's Note: Be sure to check the Future ScampCamp section on page 13 for the dates and plans for ScampCamp 2010 at Highlands Hammock State Park.*

## A Little Competition

An article in the 2009 January/February issue of *Rvwest* magazine announced a Canadian company that is producing small fiberglass travel trailers. The Escape Trailer Industries, located in Chilliwack, British Columbia, offers several sizes of all fiberglass trailers.

Construction of this new entry into the small fiberglass travel trailer market appears to be similar to Scamp and Casita. It is assembled with a two piece fiberglass shell to provide strong lightweight construction. As with all these trailers, they are easily repaired, easy to clean and have no roof seams. It also has an all fiberglass bottom that should eliminate water leakage and dust penetration.

Also, like Scamps, they have a rubber torsion suspension system - likely using the same or similar axles as we have on our trailers. They claim this will reduce vibration, provides independent suspension and is maintenance free. They also claim a lightweight and aerodynamic design with a low center of gravity providing good road stability. They will pull easily with front wheel drive vehicles resulting in very low wind resistance and saving fuel.

The Escape trailers have an insulated interior that is a durable, soft-touch vinyl head liner with 3/8" foam backing. It is easy to clean and should keep the trailer warm in the winter, and cool in the sum-

mer with easy cleaning. This appears to differ significantly from the Scamp's "rat fur" interior. However, thinking back to Scamp's early vinyl-like interior, the question of condensation comes to mind.

Each model comes with a long list of options and the 17-foot Model has two floor plans - the bathroom floor plan sleeps 3-4 people while a second floor plan sleeps 4. Quality top brand-name components should insure a long, dependable life. The complete galley provides easy and comfortable food storage and preparation. The Escape trailers come with a full two year warranty on manufactured parts and labor.

So, how much do the standard versions of these new, but familiar, small fiberglass trailers cost? The 13-foot lists at \$14,500. The 17-foot lists at \$19,000 and checks in at dry weight of 1,900 pounds. The 19-foot is \$24,300. Finally, the 5.0 (5<sup>th</sup> Wheel model) lists at \$26,900 and has a dry weight of 2,620 pounds. No weight for the 13-foot and 19-foot could be found, but it is easy to estimate them.

Escape Trailer Industries Ltd. of Chilliwack, B.C. in Canada and Trillium RV Ltd., located in Carson City, Nevada have announced a strategic alliance. This agreement covers manufacturing, sales and marketing. All Trillium trailer manufacturing is being trans-



*Two models of the new Escape fiberglass trailers. This is the only single axle 5th Wheel trailer on the market besides Scamp's 19-foot.*

*Courtesy photographs from Escape Trailer Industries*



*This tandem-axle Escape is a larger version of their small fiberglass trailers that is currently on the drawing board.*



*View of the dining area of an Escape Trailer.*

ferred to the Escape factory in Chilliwack.

Currently, Escape builds a 17-foot and a 19.5-foot 5th wheel. The 19-foot model is planned for introduction in 2009. Trillium currently offers their 13-foot model and the 15-foot model is planned for late 2009. This alliance provides the Escape 13-foot with a custom wood interior while the Trillium 13-foot will continue with a fiberglass interior.

Like Scamp and Casita, Escape trailers are sold only directly from their factory in Chilliwack, BC Canada. They work on a referral program with their existing customer base which allows potential customers to view an Escape trailer - the same way Scamp works.

You can check out the Escape Trailer company's website at [www.escapetrailer.com](http://www.escapetrailer.com). Their phone number is 605-703-1650.

## President Reagan's Boyhood Home

The small town of Dixon on the Rock River is a short drive off I-88 in northwestern Illinois. It is the location of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Boyhood

Home - the house where the 40<sup>th</sup> President spent a portion of his formative years (1920 to 1923). The Reagan family moved to Dixon in December when Ronald was just 9 years old. The

site on which the house stands was originally owned by Father John Dixon, founder of the town. It was built in

1891 at a cost of \$1,500. In 1982 Ronald Reagan's Boyhood Home was approved for the National Register of Historic Places. Hennepin Street has been designated as Reagan Way.

The house has three bedrooms upstairs - Ronald (nicknamed Dutch) and his brother shared one of them. Their parents used a second and the other was used as a sewing room by his mother, Nelle Reagan. She did alterations and sewing to help with the family expenses. Mr. Jack Reagan was a shoe salesman in one of the local shoe stores. Although the family lived in four other houses in Dixon, the Hennepin house was the only one mentioned in his autobiography, *Where's the Rest of Me*.

The house was offered for sale in the summer of 1980 and a group of local businessmen purchased it for \$31,500. Although it had not been refurbished it was opened to the public that fall - without any furniture. Later, by Reagan's birthday in 1984, it was restored to the condition it was in 1920 when the Reagan family lived in Dixon. Period furniture was added and it has been open to visitors since then.

Both Ronald and his brother, Neil, attended South Side School, just a few blocks down Hennepin Avenue, the same street their house was on. He attended the First Christian Church with his mother and



later both became Sunday School teachers. Both were baptized there on June 21, 1922. They played football in the side yard and raised rabbits in the barn behind the house - Ronald also had a collection of bird eggs and nests. Each of the boys had several jobs in Dixon including: lifeguard at a local park and as a caddy at the Dixon Country Club.

There is no fee to visit Ronald Reagan's Boyhood Home, the site is maintained by donations. In addition to this house, there are a number of other interesting attractions in Dixon and the surrounding region. A Dixon, Illinois Historic Walking Tour brochure offers a guide to many buildings in the town. The Lincoln Monument State Memorial is nearby and the John Deere Home Historic Site (\$5 fee) is located a few miles northeast in Grand Detour, where he invented a new type of plow in 1936. There are also several state parks within a few miles north-east of Dixon. KRC

## Recipe Corner



### Grape "Salad or Desert"

Lynda Freed, FL and PA

- 2 lbs white grapes
- 8 oz softened cream cheese
- 2 lbs red grapes
- 1/2 C white sugar
- 1/2 C brown sugar
- 8 oz sour cream
- 1/2 C chopped pecans
- 1 tsp vanilla

Pull grapes off stems, wash and drain. In large bowl, use a mixer, mix

cream cheese and white sugar till creamy. Add to mixture, sour cream and vanilla, mix well. Then add grapes. Toss gently to coat. Place all in a 9 x 13-inch pan. Sprinkle top with brown sugar and chopped nuts. ENJOY!

## Great Parks

### Itasca State Park Minnesota

Itasca is Minnesota's oldest state park and attracts half a million visitors annually. It includes more than 32,500 acres with over 100 lakes, stands of virgin pine, and protects the source of the Mississippi River. There are many historic sites within the park including the headwaters of Mississippi River as it starts its 2,552 mile journey to the Gulf of Mexico. Others are the towering pines at Preacher's Grove, the Itasca Indian Cemetery, and Wegmann's Cabin. The Wilderness Drive traverses the 2,000-acre Wilderness Sanctuary, one of Minnesota's seven National Natural Landmarks. Itasca Park is designated as a National Register Historic District.

It is estimated that Indian's hunted wild animals for food in the region 8,000 years ago. They ambushed bison, deer, and moose with stone-tipped spears at watering sites. Woodlands Period people arrive a few thousand years later, and



*Photographs by K R. Cranson*



*Visitors enjoy splashing in the headwaters of the Mississippi River as it flows out of Lake Itasca.*





*This Itasca State Park map illustrates the abundance of lakes within its boundaries.*

lived in larger, more permanent settlements. Their burial mounds can be seen in the Itasca Indian Cemetery. In 1832, an Indian guide led explorer Henry Schoolcraft to the source of the Mississippi River at Lake Itasca. It was during this journey that a missionary companion coined the name Itasca from the Latin words for “truth” and “head,” meaning “true head” in refer-

The Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center.



ence to the source of the Mississippi River. Later, in the 1800s, Jacob Brower, historian, anthropologist and land surveyor, visited the region to settle the dispute of the actual location of the Mississippi Headwaters. He became concerned about the logging and was determined to protect some of the pine forests for future generations - this led to the state legislature establishing the park on April 20, 1891.

The terrain in Itasca State Park is located along the leading edge of repeated glacial advances during the ice age. This landscape, known as a moraine, forms ranges of hills composed of coarse gravels and boulders, left behind by the ice, and is pock-marked with lakes, ponds and bogs. It is often called “knob and kettle” topography. The knobs are mounds of debris deposited directly by the ice near the glacier’s edge or by melt-water streams flowing on or under the glacier surface. The kettles are depressions, usually filled with water, formed by stagnant ice masses buried or partially buried under glacial debris. Numerous lakes filled the low areas after the ice retreat.

The diversity of vegetation in the park supports a wide range of wildlife, especially birds. Birding is excellent and visitors are encouraged to help spot and record the bird life they see in the park. Among the species are loons, grebes, cormorants, herons, ducks, owls, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches, kinglets, vireos, tanagers, finches, and warblers. Trails in the park are shared with deer, chipmunks, and squirrels - and more rarely beaver, porcupine, black bears, and wolves. There is a wide spectrum of hiking opportunities including:

**Handicapped Accessible, 1.5 Miles,** Accessible trails include the Headwaters Loop Trail and Doctor Roberts Trail that



takes you to the Oldtimers Cabin.

**Self Guided Trails, 3.25 Miles,** A trail guide for the Dr. Roberts Trail is available at the trail head. Landmark Trail has interpretive signs throughout. The Forestry Demonstration Trail and the Blowdown Trail are also self-guided trails. The Aiton Heights Tower includes interpretive information and signs.

**Hiking, 33 miles,** Trails take you through some of the most scenic parts of the park.

**Paved Bike, 16 miles,** Five miles of this trail is an off-road, paved trail that goes from Douglas Lodge to the Headwaters area. The remainder is the Wilderness Trail loop that is shared with automobiles.

**Boardwalk Trail, Handicapped Accessible,** below Douglas Lodge that runs to the Old timers cabin is a handicapped accessible boardwalk and is great for orchid viewing during spring/summer. A visit to the new **Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center** provides interpretive displays and exhibits along with a complete listing of park interpretive programs and events. Their gift shop is open year-round. The **Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center** features many outdoor interpretive displays on the plaza - it is open year-round. From the center, a short walk to the headwaters of the Mississippi River offers visitors a glimpse of this historic location.

Other visitor service facilities include the **Douglas Lodge**, a full-service restaurant open Memorial weekend through early October while the **Brower Inn** located in the north picnic area and is open Memorial weekend through Labor Day. Bike, Boat, Motors, Canoes, Pontoons, kayaks, and bike rentals are located

across from park headquarters (Itasca Sports). Snowshoes can be rented at park headquarters. Excursion boat located below Douglas Lodge on Lake Itasca (Coborn's Cruises).

The **Itasca Guide** is now available to plan your vacation to the park in PDF format on the Itasca State Park page. A note of caution for campers is in order. Firewood can harbor many different kinds of invasive pests that are harmful to Minnesota trees. Thus, restrictions are needed to help prevent the introduction or spread of damaging forest pests or disease and firewood cannot be brought into the park.

Reserve by phone at 1-866-85PARKS (1-866-857-2757) daily between 8 a.m. — 8 p.m. Central Time. Reserve online at [www.stayatmnparks.com](http://www.stayatmnparks.com) 24-hours-a-day. No reservations for camping are needed from November 1 to April 1 and up to 30 percent of the campsites in our parks and state recreation areas are non-reservable. These sites are rented on a first-come, first-served basis. A non-refundable \$8.50 reservation fee plus the full payment for the camping period reserved is due when the reservation is made. Payment can be made by check, money order or credit card (MasterCard or Visa) and must be received within 10 days of making a reservation or the reservation will be canceled.

The east entrance to the park is 21



*This interior view of the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center provides a superb series of displays.*



*This monument identifies the source of the Mississippi River as it leaves Lake Itasca for the trip to the Gulf of Mexico.*



*The SOI Bird sez:  
Have you visited a Great  
Park during your Scamp  
adventures? Why not share  
that experience with other  
SOI Members?*



miles north of Park Rapids on U.S. Highway 71. From Bemidji, the east entrance is 30 miles south on U.S. Hwy 71. From Bagley, the north entrance is 21 miles south on State Hwy 92/ U.S. Hwy 200. Ithica Park address is 36750 Main Park Drive, Park Rapids, Minnesota 56470, Phone: (218) 266-2100 and fax: 218-266-3942, E-mail: itasca.park@dnr.state.mn.us. KRC

## SOI Mailbag

**Newsletter** - Thanks very much, we enjoy reading SOI News. It's nice to hear from everyone and their experiences on some of the trips. We love the tech corner too, especially what people have done to there Scamps - it's good reading. Thanks again. **Dennis and Marilyn Duke**, Jamaica, IA

**Hi Scampers** - We are still in the UP. It has been fantastic. May drop down to Cadillac and head back up here if the weather again turns cold. Warm up here this week. If not, we head south. Been the best snow ever, so our only complaint is that it wasn't long enough! The Park people are great, as is this park. The Scamp performed well. Adding the "foam" flooring made a big difference. We were previously only in -23 but can top that now. At least 25 below and we were very comfortable. In the past the dog's water bowl froze on the floor, but this year we don't even need shoes to walk around. Such as walking around is in a Scamp. If the snow had been bad, we would have headed to Florida to the Scamp Camp, but living in Florida.....well, the snow was a bigger draw for us. I'll dash off a little "winter RV" article once we get

home. Just an update on this trip. **Carolyn Wilson and Dan Green**, Bokeela, FL

*Editor's Note: Alice Vernezze shared the following (edited) message from Paul Ogle, long-time SOI Member.*

**Good Health Report** - I would like to thank everyone that prayed for me during the difficult times I've had over the last two months. I reported to the Mayo Clinic (on February 24) where I underwent blood work and a CAT Scan of my esophagus. The next day I returned to the Mayo Clinic for an endoscopy, a procedure where a doctor goes down into my esophagus with a hose and camera to take biopsies. He was able to whittle out all of the high grade dysplasia. I returned to get the results of all of my tests and they were great - no sign of cancer. With such a flowery report, my scheduled time to see a surgeon was not necessary.

God has answered our prayers and I can tell you we serve an awesome God. It is to bad that so many of us wait until we have a crisis to call on Him for his assistance. He is there all time and all we have to do is ask. For those of you that turned my prayer request into your church, please thank them for their prayers and let them know I really appreciate their efforts on my behalf. I will be heading back to Indian River, Michigan and will be glad to return home. **Paul Ogle**, Indian River, MI.

**Another Scamp** - As a retired Navy vet I have become aware of the following web site and it may make for an interesting little article in the next newsletter. Perhaps Scamp owners would be interested in knowing that there have been two U.S. submarines named SCAMP: SS-227 was a WWII conventional diesel-electric sub, and SSN-558, a SKIPJACK Class fast





attack nuclear sub. The U.S.S. SCAMP (SSN 588) is having a reunion May 6-10, 2009 at Mt. Pleasant (Charleston), SC. For details, visit: [www.uss-scamp.com](http://www.uss-scamp.com).  
**Jim Erickson**, Minneapolis, MN.

**Winter SOI News** - Thank you Rod and Sharon for all your good work on this stuff - you are the heart of SOI and keep the enthusiasm flowing between us Scamp (and other) owners. We managed to print the newsletter on both sides of the paper by doing one page at a time . . . wish our printer could do it itself, but we have the time. **Wayne and Barbara Collins**, Dubuque, IA.

### Neat Painting -

Attached is the image of the watercolor painting I did of my 16' Scamp when I put it up for the season. I used this as my Christmas card as I always do an original painting each year for that purpose. I sent one to Eveland's Scamp in MN. One of their employees is buying the painting and we are negotiating possible use of the image. I'm so excited that they like it.

**Donna Johnston**, Saline, MI



*"Waiting for Spring"*  
 Photograph by D. Johnson

## Modifications and Changes

**Tired Axle Fix** - Here is an idea that might be of interest to some Scamp owners. As we know these trailers with the torsion axles do sag after a few years even when blocked up when idle. Most folks remove and replace the unit when sagged, at a cost of around \$800.

I did a modification last year that was a much more economical procedure



## New Scamp Patch



Several members have suggested that we offer a Patch with the SOI Logo along with the other SOI Wear items. After investigating possibilities, we discovered that the same company that provides our clothing items has started offering patches. Like the other items, the SOI Logo on the patch is imbroidered in full color. Each circular patch is 3.5 inches in diameter with gold stitching around the margins. They may be ordered using the SOI Wear flier included with the E-mail that brought you this issue of the *SOI News*.



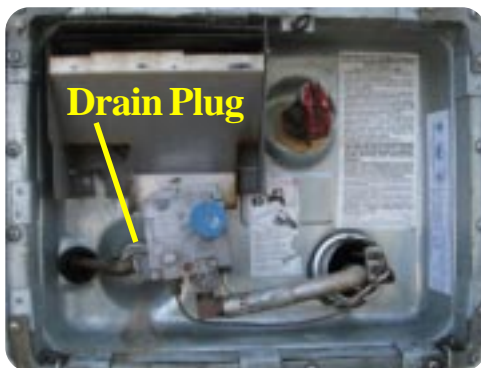
and we put a lot of miles on our Scamp last season and I believe it brought the tired old axle back to its “original” condition. By cutting all the welds, except the front one, that I left in place and used it as a hinge so I never changed alignment. Then, I cut 4 wedges from  $\frac{1}{4}$  thick steel 8 inches long and  $1\frac{3}{8}$  high at tall end and drove them in 2 on each side and welded them in place bringing my axle back to about 1 inch higher than when new. **Lyndon Laney**, Annandale, MN

## Tech Corner

### De-Winterizing Your Scamp



*Water heater by-pass valves*



*Outside view of Water Heater*

For those Scamp owners that live in the north and have their trailer in “cold storage” during the winter, here are some ideas about preparing it for the travel season ahead. The time to pack up for your first spring/summer camping adventure will be here soon.

When the danger of frost is over, it is time to begin de-winterizing your Scamp. Start with the first step, flushing the water system by connecting a water hose to the city water connection. Inside the trailer, make sure the faucets are shut off. Place the water heater by-pass valve to the normal use position.

Outside, open the water heater door, make sure the drain plug is out and turn the

water on. When water starts running out the drain, it will be pinkish color due to the antifreeze. Allow it to run until clear and then shut the water off. When all the excess water stops running from the water heater drain, reinstall the plug and turn the water back on.

Back inside again, be watchful, look and listen for running water - that could signal a broken water line. Go to each faucet and turn on the hot and cold water, allowing them to run until clear. Repeat this process by flushing the toilet and running the shower until clear.

Next, turn your attention to the fresh water tank. Close the tank drain and fill it half full. Drain the tank, then repeat the process until the water is clear. The next step is to flush the water pump. Open a faucet and let the pump and faucet run until the water is clear. Sometimes after flushing your tank, you may experience an unpleasant taste in the water. This is not harmful - it may be caused by a residue in the tank or water lines. To eliminate the problem, add a half cup of white vinegar to a half tank of water. It is a good idea to tow your Scamp for a few minutes to allow the mixture to slosh around a little. Drain the tank, then refill and drain it again. The water should be good with the next fill.

Before leaving for a trip, be sure to start the refrigerator to be sure it is working properly. It is also a good idea to check your batteries and fill if necessary. Finally, and anytime you hook-up to your Scamp, it is wise to check the running lights, turn signals and brakes. A few minutes with this routine could save you a problem at the campground where it may be difficult to make corrections.

Summarized from an article by Mike Seiler in **RV West**.



## Future ScampCamps

**Scrambled Egg Meet** - June 11 - 13, 2009 (Th-Sa). Location is the Apostle Island Area Campground, ½ mile south of Bayfield, WI on Highway 13 and ½ mile West on county Highway J. This area has many attractions: boat cruises, sail boating, orchards (dates should be strawberry time), musical and theatrical productions, unusual restaurants, and of course, lots of the usual shopping. The campground has 60 sites and some cabins. Reservations can be made after the first of the year and we suggest early reservations. The campsites are mostly in a horseshoe arrangement so we will have a lot of togetherness. The reservation procedure is a bit strange. They will send us the 2009 registration forms. Then, when you contact us we will send one to you to fill out and send with a remittance to the campground. They do not accept credit cards and the campground will only take personal checks. Campsites are \$25 and we are guaranteed last year's price. **LouAnn** and **Lyndon Laney** will serve as hosts. Contact them by phone: 320-274-8278 or E-mail: lthree@lakedalelink.net. Address is: 5426 Mowery Ave NW, Annandale MN 55302.

**Clear Lake ScampCamp** - September 9 - 13 (Wednesday-Sunday), 2009 Oakwood RV Park Clear Lake Iowa, 5419 240th Street, Clear Lake, Iowa 50428. Make reservations directly with the park by Phone: 641-357-4019. Rate is \$25.00 per night. Be sure to tell the park you are with the Moffitt SCAMPCAMP. The Clear Lake is a very nice location with roomy spaces and lots to see in the area. Hosts are **Dean** and **Virginia Moffitt**, Phone: 641-357-3545.

**New York ScampCamp** - September 14 - 18 (Monday - Friday), 2009 at Lake Erie State Park, just west of Dunkirk, NY. The park is north of I-90 off Route 5 along Lake Erie. Activities include: winery tours, crafts, lighthouse tour, lake walk, pot luck dinners, dinner at Freeport Landing, and lots of other surprises! To register: Call 1-800-456-2267 or log onto [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com). Sites: all are fairly close together — aim for sites 5 through 30. Once you've registered, contact **Dick Freed** @ 814-449-9596 or email [richfreed@aol.com](mailto:richfreed@aol.com) so we know who is coming and how many people to plan on. For further information, contact Dick.

**ScampCamp 2010** - February 9 (Tuesday) to 13 (Saturday), 2010. Plan to join us early by calling exactly 11 months to the day to make your reservation. Call 800-863-3521 to make reservations, then email or call **Alice Vernezze**, the host, to report your information. The sooner you do this the easier my job is. Even if you have to cancel you won't lose all your money - the park withholds only one day's fee. Alice's email is: [ezzeal@bellsouth.net](mailto:ezzeal@bellsouth.net), Phone number are: 321-773-2676 (home) or 321-501-3181 (cell), and address is: 610 N. Robin Way, Satellite Beach, FL 32937. We travel during the summer, so the cell phone works then. If you have a GPS system, Highlands Hammock State Park is located at 5931 Hammock Rd, Sebring, FL 33872. **Come join us for a great time.**



## 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 gathering over 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 such a gathering. These suggestions may be requested and will be sent as an attachment to an E-mail entitled "Hosting a ScampCamp Guidelines."

### Leon's Logic

*Hey, look at all these ScampCamp opportunities - why don't you pick out one to attend?*



*A man and his two small sons gathering hay on an Amish farm near Lanesboro, MN. The boys drive the horses while Dad operates the hay loader.*

*Photograph by J. Avila*

in the back slinging hay. While on a day trip through the area I went to Lanesboro. I can see why Lanesboro was and is a popular place for Fiberglass rallies. It's a charming little community.

Wisconsin was next on my itinerary. I stayed near Baraboo and encountered numerous road/bridge closures which had been caused by the June storms. I did not get to travel through the area as I had intended, but did manage to see Lake Dalton. That's the lake that drained during storms. I would not have wanted to be down steam when that happened.

I spent the 4th of July in Door County with the rest of humanity. I did enjoy it even though there were way too many people for this country girl. Of course as I passed through Green Bay I had to stop off at Lambeau Field to pay homage to the Packers. I meandered up to Bayfield where I stayed for 4 nights at the local municipal camp-

ground at Dalrympel. My site was great, right on the water with an unobstructed view of Madeline Island. Great stop and quaint little town.

The UP (upper peninsula) of Michigan was

next with Copper Harbor as my destination. Beautiful drive up the peninsula. We even had a mini ScampCamp there. I found two Scamps in the park - Margo from Florida was driving through. Margo had been at the Grand Marais gathering, we were both surprised to see one and other again.

It was interesting speaking with one of the couples who had a 1970 something Scamp. They had purchased it as a kit. The trailer was delivered with the top and bottom together and a small hole where the door went. That was because the workers had to get inside to plumb the electricity. The couple not only had to add all the cabinets, elephant skin and appliances but they had to cut the window and door holes in order to affix them. That surprised me. I would never have thought that the individuals would have had to cut the fiberglass.

On to Munising municipal campground on the shores of Lake Superior. From there it was a short drive to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Our next stop was Sault Ste. Marie and the Soo Locks. As luck would have it there was a very large tanker going through the locks at the time I was there. It amazed me that it only took 12 minutes to raise that huge ship. The last stop in the UP was St. Ignace which was our jumping off point for the ferry to Mackinac (pronounced Mackinaw) Island. I took Lily and the bike, with a basket on it for her. We biked around the island and criss-crossed over it several times. I think I enjoyed it because there are no motorized vehicles, just horses, bikes and feet. We had a wonderful time there - I'd definitely go back.

South to the glove or mitten of Michigan. First stop was Traverse City with stops along the way to hunt for Petosky stones. Hurray, I found one plus a very nice large rock with fossils in it. I'm glad I don't have



*Miner's Castle, an eroded sea-stack along Lake Superior's shoreline, is a major attraction in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.*

*Photograph by K R. Cranson*



any places where they might weigh my vehicle as I've got lots of rocks from the three Great Lakes states. I love rocks. Back to my trip and a day ride out to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. It was a disappointment as they are believed to have the largest dune outside of the Sahara. There was so much growth on it, that it was hard to tell it was a sand dune. The little dunes in Death Valley between Baker, CA and Shoshone, NV, as well as some others in the southwest are more impressive with mountains of sand and no growth on them. Even thinking about the Sahara you think of sand, not shrubs.

South again to Holland and the land of the Dutch. Windmill Island was a very nice stop, they even allowed dogs so Lily got to walk around the grounds with me. I left Lily in the shade and toured the 230+ year old De Zwaan (The Swan) windmill. It's the last authentic windmill that the government let leave the Netherlands. Quite a nice day there. East across the lower peninsula to the Thumb, I couldn't leave Michigan without going to the Thumb. There were sugar beet farms all over that made me feel right at home. While I grew up on a cattle ranch in Monterey County California, there were lots of sugar beet farms in the area with Spreckels sugar factory some 50 miles away. I'd almost forgotten what sugar beet farms look like. Our last stop in Michigan was Grass Lake, which gave me a jumping off point for southern Michigan.

I dropped down into Ohio for several days meeting up with June Ahrens, who I had previously met at my Turkey Creek Scamp Camp five years ago. We had a nice visit at Grand Lake St. Mary's State Park, a beautiful park. Amishville, Indiana was my next stop and I enjoyed

the quiet there. Lily and I took bike rides nearly every day, a great place to do so with only horses and buggies on the small rural roads. Off to Hannibal, Missouri to meet up with Doris Lawson, the hostess of several gathering plus the Nebraska gathering I had attended at the start of my trip.

After Hannibal I started back on I-80 and was glad I had because I finally had car trouble and my original route would have placed me somewhere out in the middle of nowhere in eastern Kansas/western Colorado. With no indication of anything about to happen I got up one morning to take a drive and the Jeep wouldn't start. The battery was fine and the starter was trying it's best but the engine simply wouldn't start. It turned out to be the starter coil. The delay in the trip gave me time to contemplate a change of route and I decided to drop into Colorado where I spent two nights in Rocky Mountain National Park. I've been to Colorado many times in the past but had never been to Rocky Mountain NP. I thoroughly enjoyed the stay and certainly the road over the hill westward. What a drive. My trip on west and home took me through Utah and Nevada on highway 50 with nothing in particular to report.

After three months and a week Lily and I were happy to be home.



*A 1,000-foot Great Lakes freighter leaves the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan*



*Bright Yellow Lady Slipers bloom on Mackinac Island near Mackinaw City, Michigan.*

*Photographs by K R. Cranson*



*The Dune Climb is a favorite visitor attraction in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.*

## Three Great Lakes States

Joy Avila, Sonora, CA



*Giant peacepipe at Pipestone National Mounument in southern Minnesota.*

Photographs by J. Avila



*The beginning of the Mississippi River as water flows from Lake Itasca in Itasca State Park, Minnesota.*



*Joy found a good supply of 13 and 16-foot Scamps on the Scamp-Eveland, Inc. storage area during a stop in Backus, Minnesota.*

Lily and I headed out on our longest trip to date to see the Three Great Lakes States. We left California the Friday of Memorial Day Weekend (2008) and felt as though we had the storm systems attached to our bumper. Rain, hail, snow, and nasty thunderstorms with terrible thunder

and lightening that we are not accustomed to in California. We stopped off at Doris Lawson's Nebraska Fiberglass Gathering where we were treated to a tornado within 15 miles. Had a great time at the gathering and met new friends, some from the internet. It's nice to put faces with names. I also saw folks that I had met 5 years ago when we last crossed the Rockies to host the Turkey Creek gathering in Missouri.

Off to Minnesota and Pipestone National Monument. Pipestone is a place the Native Americans have been obtaining a special stone from quarries for centuries to make what we call Peace pipes. This site has always been treasured by the Native Americans as a prime spot to gather the prized stone.

From there we headed for the

Itasca Lake State Park, MN, the headwaters of the Mississippi. Of course on the way I had to stop off at Backus to see the Scamp factory and meet Alan Sheley the salesman I dealt with about 7½ years ago when I ordered my Scamp. I was told that after the fire they hired extra workers to catch up on orders and kept them on long enough to get an inventory of Scamps made - took a picture of some of the Scamps ready for purchase on their lot.

We continued our trip through Minnesota via International Falls to Hibbing where I viewed one of the largest open pit mines, the Hull-Rust Mine. Then, on to Ely and Grand Marais where I co-hosted the Fiberglass rally with an attendance of 47 trailers and 1 tent - once again seeing old friends and meeting new ones. Following the gathering I tagged along behind Nancy and Fred to Duluth where I set up camp for several days one of which we went over to tour the Soudan Mine, a great place. Nancy and Fred arranged a trip out on the lake in a sail boat which I even got to sail. What fun.

Next, I was off to my last stay in Minnesota in the Amish country. I enjoyed watching a man and his two very small sons gathering hay. Those two little tykes stood up top each holding a rein while Dad was

**Continued on page 14**

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