



HOG WHISPERS...

Volume 10 Issue 1

Arkansas SMART Hogs Newsletter, March 2010

2010 Chapter Officers

President:

Ann Lowry

Vice President:

Marion Spivey

Secretary:

Eileen Wheeler

Treasurer:

Pat Maglievaz

2009 Appointed Positions

Muster Master:

(Need Volunteer)

Newsletter Editor:

Bill Corroum

Upcoming Events

6 - 10 May: S. Central Regional Muster. C&D Camping, Lincoln, AL. No Host.

9 - 13 May: Spring Muster Riverside RV Park, N. Little Rock, AR

8 - 12 Sep: SMART National Muster. Centre Hill, PA

November: Veterans' Day Muster. Dates TBA.

Please Submit Items:

Bill Corroum

bc1959na@centurytel.net

7 Foxboro Cove

Jacksonville, AR 72076

(501) 258-4479

Your input will be GLADLY accepted.

A New Camping Season!

Well, the weather is warming up, the Daffodils and Forsythia are blooming and the urge to get out into Nature is becoming overwhelming. Must be Spring!

And, that means it's time to de-winterize the rig and test all the systems. There are good selection of camping opportunities just ahead with your SMART friends, including:

- 4 - 10 April: SMART Arkansas Diamonds Muster, Coachlight RV Park, Carthage, MO. No Host. Muster Registration Form attached. New chapter - please see story, Page 3.
- 9 - 13 May: SMART Hogs Spring Muster, Riverside RV Park, North Little Rock, AR. Host - Spivey & Corroums. Registration Form attached.
- 6 - 10 May: SMART South Central Regional Muster, C&C Camping, Inc., Lincoln, AL. No Host. Details and registration form on SMART website: smartrving.net
- Later in the year, we have the SMART National Muster at Centre Hill, PA in September and our Veterans' Day muster in Russellville in November. How many are planning to attend the National and would like to go in a small caravan? Would someone like to **volunteer** to pick a location for a pre-muster, so we can get together for a night or two and go in together, so we camp together at the National?

Everyone has an RV with big, fat, black things called TIRES that are designed to go around, so we can TRAVEL. We all know that the real fun of SMART lies in Musters and Caravans. So, make your plans now so we'll SEE YOU

President's Corner

Hello, SMART Hogs! I'm very pleased to be your president this year and I hope to carry on the fine traditions that we have enjoyed through the years.

We have a great all-female slate of chapter officers to get things rolling. Marion Spivey has agreed to continue as the vice president, Eleen Wheeler is back as our secretary and Pat Maglievaz will assume the important role of treasurer. How can we go wrong!!

We do need a volunteer for the muster master position, as the two who originally planned to share that duty will not be available. This job is really a coordinator position, where you encourage folks to host musters, help and support them where they need it and make arrangements for the chapter muster equipment to be available where and when it is needed.

The full explanation is in the Muster SOP, which is attached to this newsletter. Our (term-limited) past muster master, "Travelin' Bill" Corroum, points out the muster master's function is done before

the muster, so you don't have to attend every one. He and Kathie were sometimes on the other end of the country when we got together during the past two years! If you'd like to help us out in an important way and be this year's muster master, please give me a call.

A few members who are making some general plans for future musters, including one to observe Veterans' Day at Russellville (See article, below). If you'd like to be an assistant, or if you have some ideas about your own muster, please don't hesitate to call. We'll fit your ideas in and get any help you might need to put it together.

Finally, SMART membership rolls have begun to grow again, including a good number of new members in Arkansas. We welcome them and hope they will get involved in our musters and other activities! Please be sure to seek them out and give them a hearty Arkansas SMART Hog welcome.

Ann Lowry

Muster Host Seeks Your Ideas

Melva and I would like some ideas from the club on what they would like to see and do here in Russellville next veterans week. We will be talking with the guy in charge of the Veterans Day Parade, but if folks have things they'd like to see or do in the area - I know we've had lots of musters here in the past and done lots of little trips so not sure what would be new to folks. I know the winery's will be a hit but not sure what else folks would be interested in.

Thanks,
Tom C. Arnold
(479) 857-4813/-1213

Ed Note: In past years, we've enjoyed stops at the Post Familie and Wiedekehr wineries, the state park's aquatic displays, Arkansas Nuclear One, Firestone's inner tube plant and other attractions. You might go to the Russellville website at russellvillearkansas.org and see what else might interest you and pass it on to the Arnolds. -BC

New SMART members from Arkansas

The following was written in the current SMART *Traveler* by National President, Merle Dodge:

"I'm sure glad that we can finally see sunshine in the future of SMART. So many good things are happening in this organization that you, the members, may not be aware of. For starters, we have stabilized our membership numbers, and have actually started showing an increase in membership.

I think that in part, this is due to the member's effort to talk to people that they meet about SMART. Another area that has helped with the increase in membership is having a person like **{Arkansas SMART Hog} John Farrell**, dedicated to the position of National Retention and Recruiting. His initiatives, along with the activities of the 2nd Vice President's position **{Arkansas SMART Hog Christian Eck}**, have resulted in several short and long term goals being established..."

At another point in the magazine, there is a list of 50 new SMART members, including eight who live in the state of Arkansas. Good work, John! Here are the Arkansans:

13016 **Franks** James F (Susan) Hot Springs AR
13021 **Mckissack** Jerry G (Judy) Little Rock AR
13022 **Plunk** Henry H (Phyllis) Jacksonville AR
13030 **Wise** Herbert F (Ila) Bella Vista AR
13032 **Moore** Howard B (Joann) Pearidge AR
13033 **Lewis** Derrald W (Linda) Bella Vista AR
13045 **Cowell** Donald M (Joann) Bella Vista AR
13055 **Bradley** Troy L (Sarah) Springdale AR

If you know any of these new SMART members or live close to them, please pick up the phone and welcome them. Be sure to tell them about our musters and invite them to come along WITH you. Of course, if you meet any of them at future musters, be sure to invite them to join our chapter. Please make them feel welcome and encourage their participation!

New SMART Chapter in Arkansas

Hello Arkansas Hogs !

The following is with Ann Lowry's permission

You may or may not know that we have formed and have received interim approval, pending Board of Director's meeting next week, for the newest chapter of SMART here in Northwest Arkansas. We will be known as the Arkansas Diamonds. We'd love to invite any member of the Arkansas Hogs to join with us in our efforts. We already have 14 couples who are charter members and anyone who wishes to join before May 1st, will be recognized as a charter member.

We are holding our first muster at Coachlight RV in Carthage, MO on April 8-10 and would love to have any of the Arkansas Hogs join us. Ann may have already sent you an April Muster Registration form but I'll attach another one to this email, just in case. Also attached is an application for membership into the Arkansas Diamonds if you are so inclined.

Sandy Percy, Secretary/Treasurer

At Her Wits End!

At our supermarket, I noticed a woman with four boys and a baby. Her patience was wearing thin as the boys called out, "Mommy!, Mommy!" as she tried to shop. Finally, she blurted out, "I don't want to hear the word *mommy* for at least 10 minutes!"

The boys fell silent for a few seconds. Then, one tugged on his mother's dress and said softly, "Excuse me, miss."

Dennis Dook in *Reader's Digest*

Binnacle List

Butch & Gerri Smith:

Butch is now in the Northwest Louisiana War Veterans Home, 3130 Arthur Ray Teague Pkwy, Bossier City, LA 71112 Room 217. I know he would love to hear from some of his SMART friends. He is very happy there, loves it he says. I am still hoping to re-locate there once my lease is up here, but finding an apt. or house (in my price range) to rent that will accommodate all the furniture that I bought to fill this big duplex does not seem to be very easy, and everyone tells me to stay in Bossier City that it is safer for me since I am alone. But I will find something.... Hope everyone is doing fine, sure do miss the RV lifestyle and all our friends.
Butch & Gerri Smith (2/15/10)

Mac McClure:

Progress after stroke has been very good. He's walking now without his walker. Speech therapy still has a long way to go. Nell said they still have their rig and hope to "get back into the swing of things, one of these days" She said they miss all their friends in the Hogs!

Edye Jungels:

Ralph said that Edye is doing very well after all her treatments following cancer. Medicare authorities have authorized continued physical therapy to follow up her shoulder surgery, so she still has a tough time ahead.

Kic & Eileen Wheeler:

Kic is improving and is not experiencing so much pain in his extremities after a change in medications. Eileen reports a lot of pain in her hands and wrists. However, both say they expect to be able to participate in upcoming events.

A Little-Known Veterans' Benefit

There is a VA program to help veterans with nursing home and home health care expenses. Since many families don't even know about it, up to \$22 billion goes unclaimed each year. The Special Pension for Veterans' Aid and Attendance pays up to \$1,644 a month, \$19,736 annually, toward assisted living, nursing homes or in-home care for veterans 65 and older who served at least 90 days and one day during wartime stateside or overseas. Veterans and their spouses can receive up to \$23,396 annually and spouses of deceased veterans can get up to \$12,681.

There are stringent financial limitations to qualify. Annual income for the veteran cannot exceed \$11,830, and with his dependent is limited to \$15,493 (both numbers adjusted for un-reimbursed medical expenses). If the veteran's assets, not counting primary car and residence, exceed \$80,000, VA does a full audit. If less, they accept the reported total.

Nine states, including Oklahoma, have specific offices to assist in compiling the necessary information and submitting the application. The Arkansas Veterans Affairs office reported that they can assist in these applications as well. If you know someone who needs this help, either put them in contact with the Veterans Affairs office or call on their behalf at (501) 370-3820. The VA Regional Office in North Little Rock is well versed in the details of this program and can be reached at (800) 827-1000 (option 3). It's highly recommended that you ask the Arkansas counselors for their assistance in submitting the claim to the VA office.

Some of the information in this article came from an article published by Paula Burks on February 8, 2009.

S*M*A*R*T ARKANSAS DIAMONDS
MUSTER REGISTRATION FORM
April 8th, 9th & 10th, 2010
COACHLIGHT RV
5305 S. Garrison Avenue
Carthage, MO 64836
417-358-3666 (Nancy)

SMART# _____
Name Last _____ First _____ Spouse _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Home Phone _____ Cell _____
Email _____
Arrival Date: ____/____/____ Departure Date: ____/____/____ Number of Days _____

Muster Information: This is a NO-HOST MUSTER designed to minimize the workload and maximize conversation time, game time, friendship and fellowship. Indoor and outdoor game tournaments may be scheduled, weather permitting. We will have coffee and “sweets” for the early risers. One dinner will be a Pot-Luck and a No-Host dinner will be planned at a local restaurant. Additional information such as schedule (agenda), meals, activities (games, etc.) will be announced.

Registration Fees: \$4.00 per day of muster, per rig (chapter members and/or guests). Registration fees must be submitted along with this muster form. No refunds will be processed after April 5, 2010. Total Registration Fees Submitted: \$ _____ Please make your check payable to: SMART Arkansas Diamonds

PRINT & MAIL TO: Tom or Sandy Pearcy 46 Kirkcaldy Drive Bella Vista, AR 72715 479-855-4666 tspearcy@gmail.com

Campsite Fees: Please make your individual reservations for your campsite directly with Coachlight RV. Be sure to mention that you are with the SMART Arkansas Diamonds for the \$22.00 nightly rate. You may elect to arrive early and stay later than the muster dates indicated above.

General Campground Information: W/E/S/Cable/Free WiFi sites, level paved sites with paved roads.

Local Area Information: <http://www.carthagechamber.com>

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

ALL SMART Members & non-SMART members must sign below in order to participate – Please read:

For services rendered to/received by those signed below, in their participation of the SMART activity named above, the undersigned hereby releases and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless SMART Inc., all officers, directors, employees, agents and their successors and assigns from all liabilities, injuries, obligations, claims, demands, losses, damages, judgements, penalties, expenses and disbursements, including reasonable attorney’s fee of any kind and nature arising out of or in any way related to the activity listed above. SMART is NOT responsible for the actions of any participating company or agent, with regards to their role in organizing, planning, or for any other service they may provide for the benefit of the named person or activity. All persons must be 18 years or older, and must sign this agreement.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

RESERVATION FORM
Arkansas SMART Hogs Muster 9 - 13 May 2010
Riverside RV Park, North Little Rock, AR
I-30, Exit 141B at Riverfront Drive and South Locust Street
GPS - 34.752078, -92.261741
<http://www.northlittlerockriversidervpark.com>
Phone: (501) 340-5312

Name _____ SMART# _____

We plan to attend the May muster. The fee is \$7.50 per person, \$15 a couple. Please submit as soon as possible but no later than 1 May 2010 to:

Marion Spivey
46 Greenview Circle
Sherwood, AR 72120-4650
Home (501)835-2051 Cell(501)258-2051 Email: mfspivey@sbcglobal.net

Please make your own reservations with Riverside RV Park. (See contact numbers, above.)
All sites have 30- and 50-amp service with water and sewer. Our rate will be \$20/night.
The start of the Arkansas River Trail is located next to the RV Park. Bring your bikes and walking shoes!

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST SIGN THE FOLLOWING:

For services rendered to/received by those signed below, in their participation of the SMART activity named above, the undersigned hereby releases and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless SMART Inc., all officers, directors, employees, agents and their successors and assigns from all liabilities, injuries, obligations, claims, demands, losses, damages, judgements, penalties, expenses and disbursements, including reasonable attorney's fee of any kind and nature arising out of or in any way related to the activity listed above. SMART is NOT responsible for the actions of any participating company or agent, with regards to their role in organizing, planning, or for any other service they may provide for the benefit of the named person or activity. All persons must be 18 years or older, and must sign this agreement.

SIGNATURES:

1. _____ DATE _____
2. _____ DATE _____
3. _____ DATE _____

NOTE TO ATTENDEES: You are responsible for making your own reservations and deposits at: Riverside RV Park. Be sure to mention your reservations are for The SMART MUSTER.