



FTCAC Pirate FYI's December, 2018

FTCAC Spring Hobo Rally

We have received the following preliminary rally info from President **Joe Smedley**. More details will follow in the next newsletters. For those intimidated by boondocking, keep reading and remember: The best way to learn to boondock, is to do it with others.

Date: March 7th through the 10th, 2019.

Location: The home of Joe and Sue Smedley, 1766 SE Hargrave Street, Arcadia, Florida 34266 (one block south of Highway 70)

The main area is a level site in a pasture. There are no trees, therefore no shade. It will be mowed lawn height, but rotary mowers do not always disperse the horse turds.

The good news is there is nothing to hook up when you arrive. This is an opportunity to operate off the grid. Test your generator or be brave and just test your batteries. Use your fresh water system. You should arrive with your black and gray water tanks empty and your fresh water tank full (unless you want stinky well water).

There are campgrounds east and west of Arcadia where tanks may be dumped upon departure.

Reservations are required, but you may come as early as you like (it may be entertaining to watch me during the final preparations). Email: fjsjmedley@embarqmail.com And stay as long as you like. Last one to leave has to fix the fence.

Highlights of the weekend include:

The Arcadia Rodeo. I believe it is the oldest established rodeo in Florida. There are afternoon rodeos on all four days. The new Arena is air conditioned. Rodeo tickets may be purchased online.

There are more antique shops than can be visited in one day.

Solomon's Castle is a short drive west of Arcadia (15 miles) and a very interesting tour.

I hope to plan a group dinner on Saturday evening either at the "Boat in the Moat" (Solomon's Castle) or at Mary Margaret's Tea Room.

I have arranged for Mr. Dan Akard, the "RV Doctor" from Fort Myers, to come onsite, give a presentation on solar and generator usage, and, if necessary, troubleshoot and assist any of us who are experiencing problems with our charging systems. Time permitting, he may be able to make other onsite repairs if anyone desires.

Boondocking Tips #1

The following is an edited version of some of their recommended boondocking ideas sent by **Joe and Tammy Dinneen** to share with the group.

- Know your capacities for the fresh water, gray water and black water tanks.
- Ensure fresh water tank is full and that gray and black water tanks are empty on arrival.
- Use paper plates/bowls, disposable cups and plastic ware to limit washing dishes.
- Use ziplock bags for storing leftover food, and when baking, use aluminum foil on the pans for easy cleanup.

- Use the campground's showers and restrooms; however, if none are available:
- Use a showerhead with an on/off toggle button for "military" showering.
- When warming up the shower water, use an empty gallon plastic water bottle to catch this water which can then be used for toilet flushing.
- Place a tub in the bottom of the shower to catch shower water which can then be used for toilet flushing [Similarly, a dish pan in the sink catches hand-washing water to be flushed.]

- Use a generator and/or a solar array to keep the batteries charged.
- Use Luci lights (inflatable solar lights) as a night light.
- Ensure your propane tanks are full.
- Use a Mr Buddy propane heater for those cooler days and nights.

In addition to the above from Tammy and Joe, there is a wealth of information available through a link on the Region 3 website region3.wbcci.net . Click on *Caravans*, then on *Boondocking in your RV*, and follow the link there. If you have not yet read it, we suggest you do so. Not everything in it applies to everyone, but you can get an idea of what suits you and your circumstances.

If anyone has specific tips that work for you, please send them and we will pass them on.

BYOB & F Picnic

Mike and Alicia Rafter will not be hosting the BYOB&F picnic, usually held in January. If anyone would like to host, please let us know ASAP so we can get the word out. Pick a date! Everyone brings their own beverage, food and chairs so there is little for the host to do.

New Director

Since the last issue of the FYI's, we have learned that **Jackie Groeneveld** volunteered to fill the open 2-year Director position. Thank you, Jackie.

Region 3 Rally

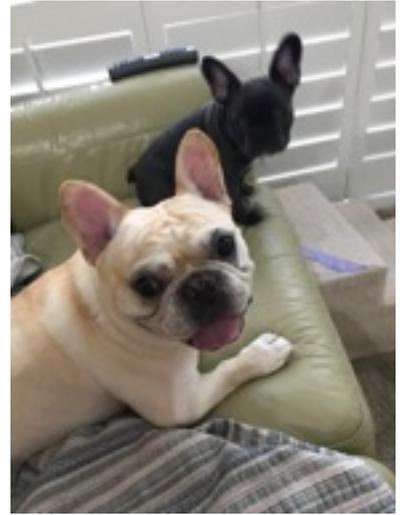
For those looking ahead, **Joe Smedley** is planning to lead a caravan to the Region 3 Rally to be held April 24 - 28, 2019, at the Tom Johnson Camping World Rally Park in Marion, NC. The caravan will rendezvous in St. Augustine on Sunday, April 21 (Easter).

International Rally

The WBCCI International Rally will be July 20 - 27, 2019, at The Meadow Event Park in Doswell, VA. (The Meadow is the birthplace of *Secretariat*.)

New Family Member

Eric and Susan Taylor-Arens recently added a new family member after seeing a sign for “Blue French Bulldog Puppies for sale” in their neighborhood. Neither Susan nor Eric could resist a peek at the rare blue puppies, which led to the purchase of 8-week-old Truffles (then called Ariel). She immediately captured their hearts, and Quincy’s as well. Truffles and Quincy are the best of friends 95% of the time and enjoy playing and roughhousing. An occasional squabble happens between the two, which calls for a time out. Truffles is now almost 12 weeks old, and Quincy just turned nine on November 24. Eric and Susan are exploring new RV options for their larger family. Truffles will likely make her camping debut in the spring.



Remember to save **pop tops** from aluminum cans to be donated at each International Rally.

Recycle Opportunity As the holiday season approaches, please save Christmas cards for **Sallie LittleJohn**. Also, she’d like to have any greeting cards, not just Christmas ones. She makes tiny, nesting, novelty gift boxes from them.

The editor wishes to thank **Tammy Dinneen, Joe Smedley** and **Susan Taylor-Arens** for their contributions to this issue.



We wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! May you and your families be blessed throughout the upcoming year.

