

# KAYAKING

by Karen & Greg Newman

My husband and I have started an exciting and fun new sport/hobby that we would like to share with you. We have begun recreational kayaking! You are probably more familiar with the white-water and sea kayaking styles. Recreational kayaking is similar to canoeing only a kayak is much lighter to paddle. You also have the added advantage of being closer to the water and can draft in much shallower waters than when canoeing. It is wonderful to get close to the wildlife as we poke along the shores.

There are single kayaks to be paddled solo, or doubles to be paddled with a partner. And the sport/hobby combines so beautifully with camping! It seems the two are made for each other. How many camps do you visit that are on a lake or river? Probably quite a few depending on which state you are traveling in.

Recreational kayaking is a wonderful way to keep fit. You are sitting down so there is little stress on the legs and your whole torso is used in paddling so your arms are not terribly fatigued at the end of a day. You get a wonderful workout, and look at the scenery you can admire at the same time! If you are interested in this sport/hobby there are many internet sites for kayaking. Be sure to actually paddle some kayaks before you purchase one, there are several groups that travel the country with demo kayaks to try. A local sport shop dealing in kayaks should have some demo models. It is easy and fun. We were wondering if there are any other Starcraft campers out there that are doing recreational kayaking? We would love to hear your stories and yarns. Tips and information on beautiful paddling places would be most welcome also. My husband and I are just beginning but we hope to advance rapidly. This letter is kind of a "Hello? Are you out there?" It would be wonderful to have a Starcraft Camper Paddle Club that could meet at beautiful places and paddle together. Starcraft people have always been some of the nicest, friendliest people we meet. Hello? We're here, where are you? Happy Camping and Paddling!

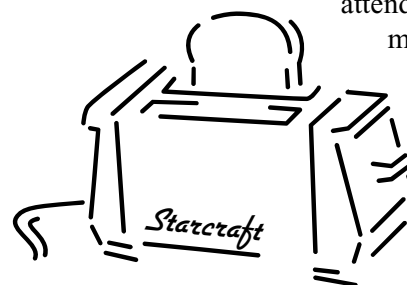
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**Indiana Starcraft Club**

## What Is TP Insurance?

TP Insurance is a fun way for the teens to raise some money to help defray the cost of their parties at the rally. Members can donate new articles that can be used for the raffle. The teens go around selling sheets of tickets for \$ 1.00. Each sheet consists of 20 tickets which can be separated and a ticket put towards whatever article you so desire. There is then a drawing for each item, if your ticket is drawn, you win the item. If you display the sheet of tickets in your window, your trailer will not be TP'ed. That is where the name TP Insurance comes from. Also there is an incentive for the teens to sell the tickets, as the one who sells the most receives a cash prize. There are also consolation prizes. We hope this will help you understand about the TP Insurance so you can join in the fun and maybe win something. Check the agenda for the time and place of the viewing and drawing.

## 2000 PRESIDENTS' & SECRETARIES' BREAKFAST

Attendance clarification for Presidents'/Secretaries' breakfast. If the president and secretary are present at the rally, they and their spouses may attend. If the president or secretary is present at the rally, they and their spouse may attend. If neither the president nor secretary is present at the rally, the president must designate in writing who will serve as proxy for the president. The proxy and spouse may attend. The state chapter must be active and have sponsored at least one campout this season.



# REBEL JAMBOREE RECAP

**Editor's Note:** This article should have been featured in the last issue of the Chatter and was missed.

I apologize to the writer and hope the 2000 Rebel Jamboree is as fun as this one was!!

The Rebel Jamboree was held at the Piney Grove Campground at Dennis, MS, in October '99. There were 27 units attending from Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Virginia, including Cliff and Audrey Lewis, International Events Managers. The layout of the campground really is great for a rally like this, with a big pavilion in the middle and campsites circling it.

The rally officially began Friday night with a spaghetti dinner. Then the Hobo Highsteppers provided the entertainment. Unfortunately, they had to dance in the rain, since it started raining for the first time in weeks, (the rain really was needed). I doubt they were any wetter than when they came to the International in Arkansas and danced in the heat.

On Saturday morning the rain continued on and off which was no problem because of the pavilion. Evelyn Johnson and Denise Estes had worked up a craft project for all the ladies who wished to participate. All I know is they started out with some flower pots, paint, bells, and other miscellaneous material and ended up with chicken wind chimes that were really neat!

The different competitions were held on Saturday and Sunday also. On Saturday night the "Womanless Beauty Revue" was held much to the enjoyment of everyone.

Let me just say that it was certainly a sight to behold. First was the swim suit competition and thank goodness the outfits were at least "modest"! Then it was time for the talent part although I'm not sure there was much "talent" involved. The talent ranged from storytelling to an original song performed by the eventual winner.



Then it was time for the evening gowns. Words just can't describe what we saw. Everyone really got a kick out of the shenanigans. Fred Tierce of Mississippi was crowned Miss/Mr. Rebel Jamboree 2000. On Sunday morning we started out with a wonderful time of singing followed by a short devotion and then it was time to finish the games. A short business meeting was held Sunday afternoon to acknowledge the game winners as follows: Spinner Dominoes-Evelyn Johnson; Skipbo-Betty Boggan & Willie Mae Woods; Washer Toss-Harry Presley & Cliff Lewis; Regular Dominoes-Dottie Lansford & Hugh Woods; Miss/Mr. Rebel Jamboree 2000-1st Fred Tierce, 2nd Harry Presley, 3rd Willard Jett.

Then Harry and Jean Presley were elected as hosts for next year's Jamboree. Thanks to Hugh and Willie Mae Woods for doing a great job as this year's hosts. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and fun.

*-Bobby Estes reporting for Hugh and Willie Mae Woods*

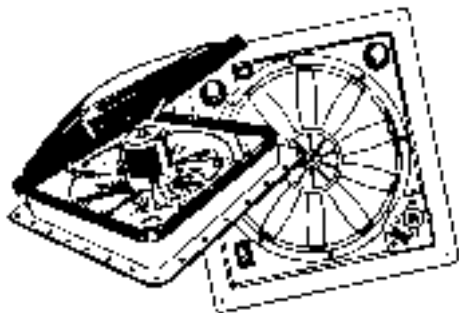
## INTERNATIONAL RALLY NOTES

To participate in any Starcraft-sponsored activities at the *International Rally*, you **MUST** wear your name tag! You'll receive your official *Rally* name tag when you arrive at the campground.

If you are interested in attending the *Rally* and have not made your reservations, **DO SO TODAY!!**

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# My 15 Years on the Road with Starcraft

by Chevy "Hankmobile" Truck

I could start at the beginning I suppose, but my heart tells me to start at the end, because that's where I am right now. You guessed it - I'm being retired - put out to pasture, so to speak. They're calling my replacement a "Hick", or "Hickmobile" that is, cause the former owner's name was Dick. This whole situation really bothers me and I have to let you all know how I feel about it, so I'm leaving this letter on the passenger seat where Hank will find it. I know I can trust him to try to get it printed in your camping magazine; *Chatter* I think it's called.

I could do the "Once upon a time" line and proceed to tell you about how it all started, and about all the traveling adventures we've had these past 15 years, but I don't have to do that because you've been out there with us, so you know about it. We've shared most of those adventures haven't we?

I've been parked at the back end of Hank's driveway this past week. I overheard him confide to a friend that he's "stripping" me. Seems that I've got lots of good parts that may help out the Hick. A couple days ago he removed my CB radio and since it's quite a large radio he told Anne that he may need to do a surgical implant in order to get it into the dash of the Hick. Hank's good at doing that kind of stuff. I've had so many surgeries and implants these past few years that most people have no idea what I used to look like, or what I am now in my final form.

Well, it's been a great journey and Hank tells me that my last trip will be to that big junkyard in the sky where I will be able to swap stories with lots of other trucks. Hey, retirement might not be so bad after all. I can match stories with anybody.

## GET A FREE LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP FROM STARCRAFT CAMPER CLUB!!

To continue the growth of your club, the International Office would like to remind you of a special incentive for members to encourage RV owners to join their travel club. By talking with your camping and traveling friends, you can interest them in joining your club! The more friends you have join, the more fun and free years you may retain within your club.

As dealers sponsor local chapters, current members may sponsor new members. When you sign a new member you get one free year's membership for each. They must include your name as the sponsor on any of our new member forms.

As you sponsor new members, record their names and membership numbers on a special form provided by the International Office. After you have received twelve (12) new members - your name and number should appear as sponsor on their application for members - you receive a Lifetime Membership.

As soon, or as long as it takes you to include more members in the club, send the completed list to the International Office and upon verification, you will receive your lifetime membership status and certificate.

If you have questions regarding the free memberships, please give the International Office a call at 800-262-5178.

**To make sure you receive credit for new members you have sponsored, please keep a list of your own and when you have sponsored 12 new members, return the form to the club office.**

# Studies Show RV Vacations are the Least Expensive

RV owners save significantly on family travel, concludes a new vacation cost comparison study, which found RV trips more affordable than travel by personal car, commercial airline or cruise ship.

Even factoring in RV ownership costs, and considering the resulting tax benefits, the study shows that a family of four can save up to 70 percent when traveling by RV. Analyzing trips with the three types of RVs most commonly used for travel with children, the international travel and tourism research firm PKF Consulting concluded that travel with a folding



camping trailer in tow cost an average of 50 to 70 percent less than the non-RV trips analyzed; vacations with a conventional travel trailer saved 24 to 57 percent; and travel by type C motorhome was 9 to 49 percent less expensive.

Nine different kinds of vacations to such popular family travel destinations as the Grand Canyon, Orlando, Cape Cod, Napa, Calif. and Alaska were analyzed by PKF, an international travel and tourism research firm. Among the variety of vacation travel modes studied for trips to these destinations, RVs were the least expensive in all cases.

For a typical week-long vacation, the study showed that, depending on the type used, an RV trip was on average 65 to 80 percent less expensive than a cruise; 57 to 72 percent less costly than an all-inclusive air/hotel/meal package; 50 to 66 percent cheaper than a trip involving air travel, rental cars, restaurants and hotels; and 34 to 56 percent less expensive than travel to a condo or rental property by personal car or airline, where appropriate.

The cost of going by RV was 13 to 42 percent lower than traveling in a personal car, staying in hotels and eating in restaurants - the least expensive of the non-RV travel options analyzed.

The study noted that fluctuations in fuel prices since the research began in August 1999 would affect all modes of

travel proportionately, thereby not impacting the comparative analysis.

Besides major cash or credit outlays required from the start to finish of each vacation, PKF factored in an estimated cost of ownership of the RVs analyzed based upon research documenting average ownership periods, residual values, annual days of use, insurance and applicable interest deductions. The RVs analyzed, shown to be the three types most commonly used by families traveling with children in a 1999 research survey by Robert Hitlin & Associates, were: folding camping trailers (avg. 1999 retail price \$5,300); conventional travel trailers (\$14,300); and type C motorhomes (\$48,500).

The PKF study considered only quantifiable economic factors, not the comparative quality of each vacation. As a result, the convenience, flexibility and quality family time cited as major travel benefits of traveling in an RV were not included in the research.

**SOURCE: RVIA**

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