



SOLOS NEWSLETTER

Presidents Message

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for supporting me as the Escapees Solos new President. I look forward to serving this organization to the best of my ability, and I pledge to uphold Kay and Joe Peterson's motto - Sharing and Caring.

After experiencing my third Annual Meeting at Quartzsite, I wanted to call out a few impressions. As I drove away through the desert, I found myself reflecting on all the people who volunteered. Our gathering was a prime example of many hands make the work lighter. I couldn't possibly call out every person who helped, but I do want to call out a few. Please know if I don't mention your name, you were still noticed and your contribution made a difference.

I think everyone there will agree, we were well fed by Carol Preimesberger and her team. Fran Rothdiener, Ginny McKee and Jean Ard were out in the early morning cold to ensure hot coffee and water was ready for hugs and mugs and the food was ready to go.

Thanks also to the dance floor crew. I saw Gus Bandemer out early one morning raking the floor and it took a crew to get the floor set up and taken down. Many thanks also to Carol Hinkley and Carole Tibbits for providing electricity to the band and for coffee and other power needs.

I want to call out Rosa Sutton with her 50/50 tickets, bucket and a smile. If you didn't get an opportunity to get a ticket, you were sleeping in. Rosa was everywhere. Carole Tibbits was the lucky winner of half the pot, with the other half going to CARE. Congratulations Carole! *(continued on page 2)*

2023 Board of Directors

President: Robin McFadden
robinjmc@gmail.com

Vice President: Carol Preimesberger
carolpberger@gmail.com

Secretary: Carol Hinkley
carolhinkley@msn.com

Treasurer: Leota Spalla
leotaspal@aol.com

Members at Large:

Bev Dessert
James Forsyth



L-R: Bev, James, Leota, Carol H., Carol P, Robin

In this issue:

- President's Message, pg1
- Board Info, Thank you: Roy, Financial Statements, East Coast Expansion, pg2
- Hello Fellow Solos, pg3
- Quartzsite Rally, New Canadian Solo, pg4
- The Fun Never Ends: Lake Havasu, Yuma, Casa Grande, pg6



President's Message continued:

The CARE auction was a notable event with some of the items selling via silent auction and some via bids. Leo Potter was once again our very able auctioneer. Fran Rothdiener and Patrica Smith worked tirelessly to showcase and deliver your purchased items. Thank you all.

Special thanks to Paul Drinkwater for his awesome photographs which chronicle our event.

As I am a fairly new member of the solos. (Joined in 2019) I have been reviewing the officers handbook that Escapees publishes, as well as our rules and by-laws. One responsibility of the President is to appoint a historian. If you have read this far- I'd like to ask for a volunteer for this position. Just email me at robinjmc@gmail.com if you would like to take this on for 2023. We have a rich, 25 year history we don't want to lose!

Another thing I have been doing is reading our old newsletters to have a better understanding of where we were 25 years ago when the concept of a solos/singles BOF was born, and where we are now.

One thing that stood out was how robust the rallies were, and they were spread all over the country. With the addition of Bev Dessert on the board, she hopes to spearhead some rallies in other parts of the country. On that note, anyone can plan a get together. If funds are needed to kickstart it, a proposal can be sent to me and the board will review. That said, most should be self funded and hopefully low cost. I came across this in a 2008 newsletter which is still useful today.

HOW TO HOST A SOLOS RALLY

1. Decide to host an event, find a place to camp, and pick a date.
2. Publicize your event. Announce it by posting a message on the Facebook Solos group and send an email via the io group. It's helpful to include links to reservation websites and /or gps coordinates as needed.
3. Make it happen ("facilitate").
4. Be the contact person.
5. When it is over, write (or appoint someone else to write) a

brief report about the event for the Newsletter, and send it to Milly Paulson along with a few pictures.

In closing I would like to thank Roy Kannada for many years of service as President of the Solos. I am pleased he will continue on as our groups io administrator. He does a lot of work every week to help new members get connected properly with the io group. In addition, he plans to continue to help with rally set up. Set up of the flags, signs and firewood are very much appreciated. I would also like to thank my fellow board members for stepping up once again. Vice President Carol Preimesberger, Secretary Carol Hinkley, Treasurer Leota Spalla, Board Members at Large Bev Dessert and James Forsyth. I look forward to a rewarding and productive year.

I want to wish all of you safe and happy travels in 2023. See you down the road.

Robin

Board Info

Quartzsite is the site of our annual Board meeting, and this year we elected Robin McFadden as our new president. Reelected were Carol Preimesberger as Vice President, Leota Spalla as Treasurer, and Carol Hinkley as Secretary. We also welcomed James Forsyth and Bev Dessert as Members at Large.



As we welcome our Board members to another year, we want to thank Roy Kannada (above) for the years he served as President and express our appreciation that he will remain an active volunteer for the Solos in the many duties he has taken on.



Financial Statement for 2022

SKP SOLOS Income and Expense Statement For Years Ended Dec 31, 2022 & 2021

	2022	2021
Income:		
Membership Dues	2,404.00	1,440.00
CARE Donations:		
From Rallies	1,674.46	532.00
From membership renewals	510.04	141.00
Rally Fees	1,245.00	
Misc (T-shirt + Decal Sales)	588.00	
Interest Income on Bank Acct	0.36	0.61
Total Income	6,421.86	2,113.61
Expenses:		
Quartzite Rally	2,206.87	0.00
Other Rallies	484.00	-389.06
CARE Contribution	2,184.50	1,000.00
Office & Other Supplies	4.91	0.00
Postage & Mail Service	2.56	452.16
Newsletter	25.34	0.00
Paypal Fees	132.44	0.00
Bank Fees	0.00	24.24
Website Fee	220.00	220.00
Storage Lot	555.00	585.00
T-shirt & Decal supplies	1,540.00	0.00
Misc	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses	7,355.62	1,892.34
Net Income/(Loss)	-933.76	221.27
Beginning Bank Balance – Checking Acct	7,501.29	7,280.02
Ending Bank Balance – Checking Acct	6,567.53	7,501.29
Net Change in Cash on Hand	-933.76	221.27

SOLOs Quartzite Rally 2023 Summary

Money Collected:		
Membership Dues	\$ 539	
Rally Fees from 82 Participants	1,585	
CARE Contributions:		
Paid with membership registrants	36	
Wine, Beer & Hot Dog sales at dance	264	
Bingo game proceeds	62	
50/50 Raffle	254	
Auction Proceeds	899	
Total CARE Contributions	1,515	
T-shirt Sales	255	
Total Collected	3,894	
Rally Expenses:		
Food & Supplies	1,308	
Band Fee	300	
Generator Reimbursement	300	
Firewood Transport cost	55	
Total Expenses	1,963	
Rally Income		1,585
Rally Expenses		1,963
Net Loss covered by club		(378)

Expanding on the East Coast

Bev Dessert has stepped up to fire up the Solos in the East, so let's...

Spring into Fun Escapes Solos East Coast Rally 2024

Dates: March 10 to March 15, 2024

**Location: Spirit of the Suwanee Music Park and
Campground**

3076 95th Dr., Live Oak, FL 32060

COORDINATOR: Bev Dessert,

Bevdessert@gmail.com

Hello Fellow Solos

A BIG welcome to our 25 new members as we continue to grow. What a joy to see so many new faces this year, along with our Canadian Solos who are back for the season! Although neither the Canadians nor the rest of us got to see the warm, dry winters we've all come to expect in the Southwest, that didn't slow us down in the least. Record setting snow, wind and rain engulfed the whole area, including Southern California. We even had cold and rainstorms in Death Valley. There was no escaping the wild weather, but we all adjusted and carried on.

Milly Paulson, Newsletter Editor (below, front)





Quartzsite Rally

Although the weather was challenging, we still managed to have a good time and to carry on. Here are a few pictures of our activities.



One Canadian Escapee and new Solo who came to Quartzsite for his first time really added a lot to the Rally with his conversion van, hospitality and campfires. He even served up Peach Cobbler he made with a cast iron dutch oven that he cooked right at the campfire. This is what he had to say about his first Solo Rally:

First Solo Rally

by Lloyd Williams SKP# 100143

I joined Escapee's in 2008 and enjoyed reading the magazine while traveling full-time with a former partner in our Prevest bus. She and I spent three years looping between Canada and the US visiting national and provincial parks. Up until this winter I



had never stayed at an SKP park or attended a rally.

I am from Victoria, BC. In May of 2022 I purchased a Mercedes Sprinter cargo van, named it Enso, and built it out myself over 101 days. In August and September I crossed Canada to Nova Scotia where I lived previously for seventeen years. In October I crossed into the states in New England and headed to the Santa Fe.

This winter in route to Jerome, AZ I passed the Escapee's North Ranch Park, having never seen one before. I turned around and pulled in for a visit. The lovely lady, behind the counter, explained everything and after I toured around, decided next time I drove by I would stay.

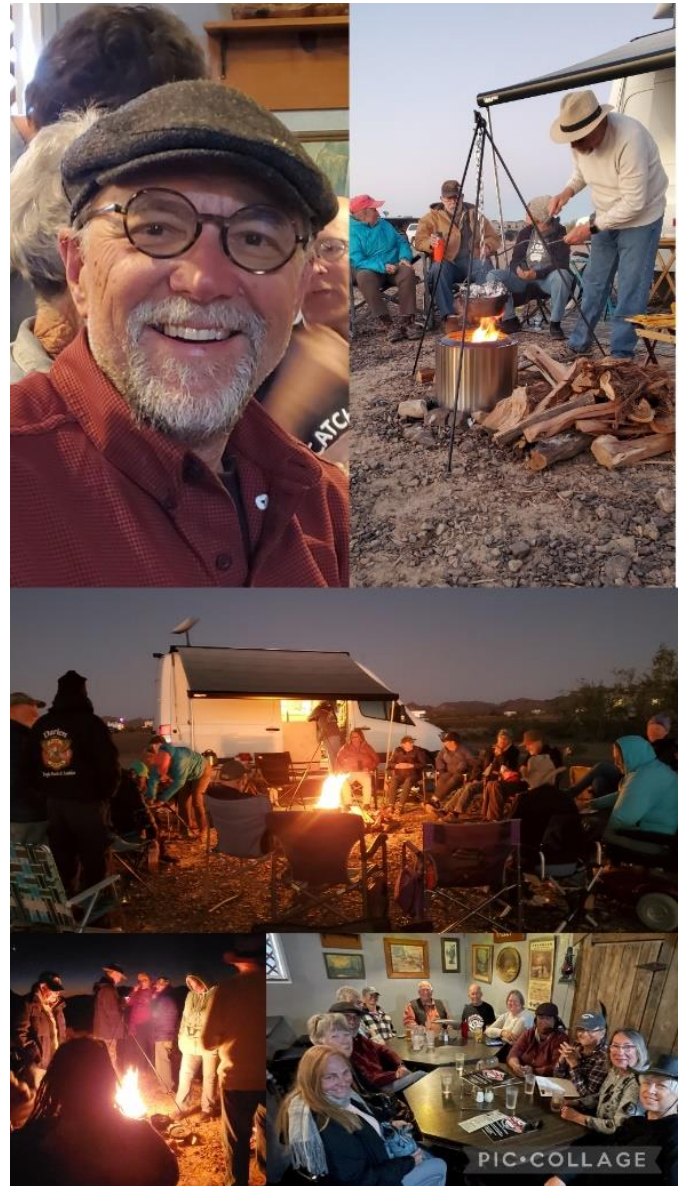
Continued on to Jerome and Sedona and was freezing in the BLM land south of town. I decided it may be a good time to visit North Ranch. I was assigned a spot next to Umsey and Bev fellow SKP's who invited me to join them for chili one evening. We had a lively evening and they invited me to join the Solo Rally in January and become a SKP Solo.

I arrived at the Pre-Rally and meet Teresa and Bob. We had our first campfire at Enso with my new Solo Stove. Every day the evening campfire circle grew larger and the conversation more diverse.

The three Carol's arrived and the rally began. The Solo community was a happy, welcoming group of fellow travellers who were a joy to talk with and lived life fully. Though I am not a joiner, the Solos welcomed newbies with open arms and new friendships are formed quickly.

A fun time was enjoyed by all: dancing at the Desert Bar, nightly campfire conversations, drive together into an RTR concert or visiting the Big Tent, daily happy hour, walks across the desert basin, pancake breakfast, helping one another with minor repairs, and lots of hugs.

After the rally ended, we continued nightly campfires back at Enso. I expected the group to diminish in number quickly, but every night the group got larger. And the night before I left a large group of us celebrated my birthday at Silly Al's. We all had a grand time. And though I am not a joiner, this group is like good family. I look forward to seeing all again next year. Big hug to all.





The Fun Never Ends...

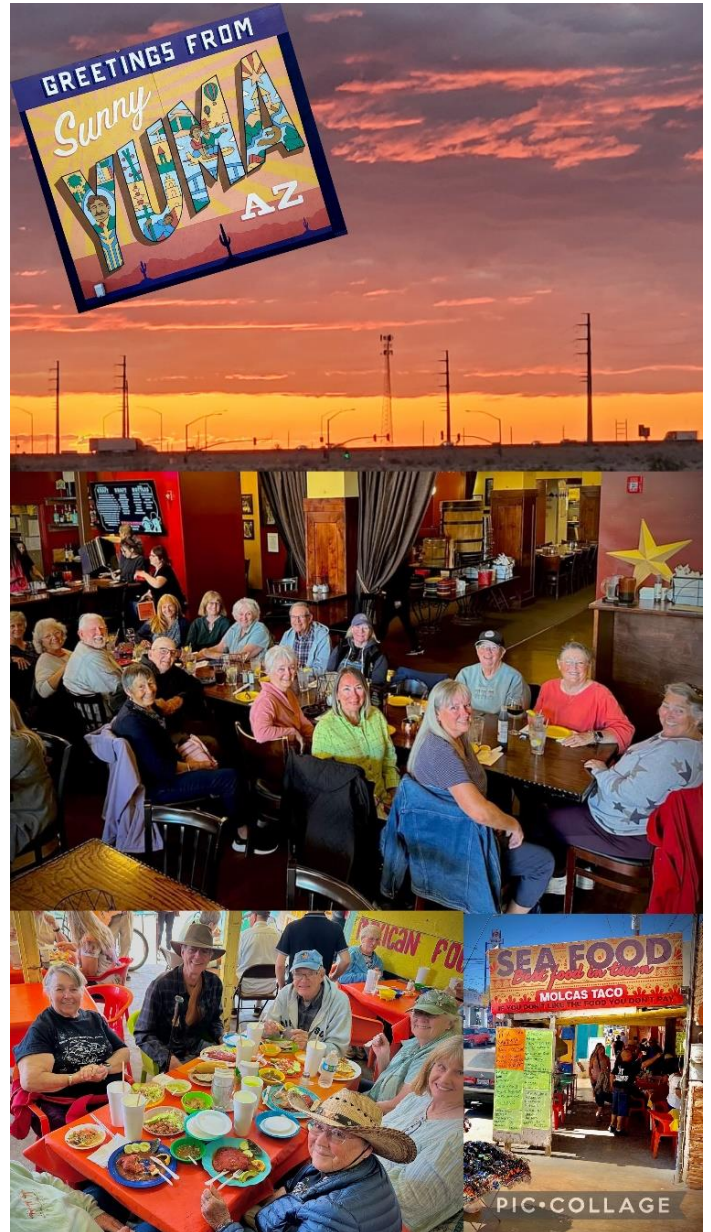
Nor did the fun stop when the Quartzsite Rally ended. Several of us continued travelling together to our next stop boondocking just south of Lake Havasu City, where we enjoyed Lake Havasu's annual street fair. Lunch was at Juicy's Restaurant, where the food and company were great, as always. On Valentine's Day there were 18

of us who went to what can be best described as an entertainment dinner at ShoGun Asian Cuisine. Another outstanding evening. We wrapped up things in Lake Havasu City with three nights of fireworks for the 2023 Winter Blast Fireworks show. We had to bundle up, but it remains the best fireworks most of us have ever seen.





Many of us continued to Yuma with 2 trips into Los Algodones, Mexico, where we had our traditional lunch at Molcus Tacos, where if you don't like the food, you don't pay. We were all happy to pay. Los Algodones always involves a lot of shopping, with some folks going to the dentist and others to the optometrist. The stop in Yuma also takes us to Martha's Gardens for date shakes, lunch and a tour of the date farm to learn about growing dates in the desert. Dinner at Da Boyz Italian Restaurant in Old Town Yuma is a tradition with us, and there were 17 of us there this year. Walking through Old Town is always fun with a lot of new shops and restaurants.





Our next stop was Casa Grande where some of the Solos from RoVer's Roost SKP Park joined us for a trip to Organ Stop Pizza with it's Wurlitzer pipe organ (the largest theater pipe organ ever made). The pizza and music are world class. We also visited the Dwarf Car Museum and went to a sky diving show and picnic lunch in Eloy. We celebrated Carol Hinkley's birthday at Anaya's Mexican restaurant in Casa Grande, and then headed to the pre rally for the Escapade, boondocking at Snyder Hill in Tucson, which we'll talk about in our next newsletter. The adventures continue...



Credits:

Milly Paulson
 Paul Drinkwater, photographer:
 James Forsythe, editor
 Ann Palmer, webmaster

