



# MOUNTAIN ECHOES ))) ))))

## COLORADO FRONT RANGE SKIPs CHAPTER FOUR

VOL 8, No.3

August 2003

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**FROM THE PREZ . . .**  
Greetings...From Upstate New York.

### WANT TO SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT??

Just send me an article of information (news you want shared with the members--no secrets!) for the newsletter to Shirley Krohn. E-mail to: Krohnjs@aol.com or mail to 159 Rainbow Drive #5915, Livingston, TX 77399-1059. Keep in mind it takes TWO weeks for the mail to get to me. Deadlines (loosely!) are: 10 Jan, 10 Apr, 10 Jul; 10 Oct.

Soon after the rally in Loveland we left Colorado, spent some time in Elkhart, IN, and then on to New York to visit family. We will be back in Mount Pleasant, IA, near the end of August for the "Old Threshers Reunion".

### NEW MEMBERS

Invite SKPs who might want to join Chapter 4 to send their membership fee of \$5 a year to Brenda McFillen, #50825,15925 Herring Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80908. If any corrections to the membership listing are needed, send updates to Shirley Krohn, address above.

The rally in Loveland was great this year! Although attendance was down from last year, everyone seemed to have a good time. There were 24 rigs attending with several from our CH 40 friends. Thanks to all of them for their help and also to everyone that pitched in when needed. Chapter 4 had a business meeting during the rally. The current officers will remain as they are now for 2003-2004. Thanks to all the Chapter 4 officers for their leadership, dedication and commitment. We could not do it without their help.

A warm SKP welcome to:

Willie (Bill) & Merle Bass, #81759, 2631 S Brentwood Ct., Lakewood CO 80227-3103 303-986-8883 colobass@aol.com

This year will be the last rally in Loveland, at least at the present fairgrounds. There will be a new fairgrounds next year, but very little in the way of camping facilities has been provided. At this time we don't know for sure where a rally will be next year, but we are hoping for a site on Colorado's Western Slope. If any of you have ideas, thoughts or comments on next year's rally please let me know.

Roy & Ruth Moulton, #74721, 4308 Valdow Ave., West Valley City UT 84120-1625 801-560-7719 ruthie@redriver.com

We hope to see you all at Chapter 2's rally in Montrose, CO, the end of September. That area of Colorado should be beautiful then. We are looking forward to attending.

Suzanne Fuhrman, # 79878, 938 Grant Place Boulder CO 80302-7117 303-449-9430 sfurmanco@comcast.net

Until next time...from New York's rainy Southern Tier.

Ken



## FROM THE MEMBERS . . .

This column is for members to share with members--where you are, what you're doing, what's great, and what's not!

*Roger & Brenda McFillen write . . .*

YES! We have been busy so far this summer and NO let up in sight! We had to miss the rally in Loveland to attend our grandson's FIRST birthday party! FUN time and saw him getting his FIRST taste of chocolate. I think he likes it! Had his own cake and really enjoyed it. GREAT video.

We started that trip with a week at Lost Valley Lake in Owensville, MO, our home campground in the Coast to Coast system. Saw lots of old friends from the St. Louis area and went to a birthday party in Herman for some of our RV group there. Then spent some time in St. Louis with Brenda's brother and sister before heading on to MD for the grandson party. After that we saw friends in Stafford VA and then headed to Clear Lake, IA, for a 100th birthday party. It was REALLY big.

Got home in time for Roger to head to Canada for a week of fishing. When he got home our daughter and 8-year old granddaughter were here from Houston, TX, for a week. Then her mom flies home and she gets to stay another week, so we can't spoil her too bad in just a week!

PS: Sep will be REAL busy with a raft trip thru the Grand Canyon the first week, Reno Air races the second and TailHook the third!

*Betty and Chuck Mulcahy write . . .*

In June we spent a few days in the Badlands of South Dakota doing some hiking and buffalo watching. A large buffalo wandered through the little campground we stayed in one day, causing one camper to hide under his picnic table. The buffalo must have only been a couple feet from the table. I'm sure the camper could feel the warmth of the animal's breath!

We also spent some time in July in the Tetons where both of our kids were playing in the Teton Music Festival. They are both symphony musicians back in the Washington/Baltimore area in different symphonies, but ended up together to perform in Teton Village for a month this summer. What a treat for us! Plus, our daughter's husband and our son's fiance were both there for a few days while we were there. Kind of like a family reunion!

So, while in the Tetons, we hiked during the day and attended a concert at night. The best of both worlds! On one hike, Chuck spotted a black bear about 30 feet from us, and we stopped to watch what she did. After crossing the trail in front of us, she waited for a bit, then grunted a couple times. At that signal, a couple small cubs materialized and trotted after her. Lucky for us we hadn't continued our hike before we noticed the cubs.

Just after Labor Day, we are leaving for a month to drive back East for our son's wedding. We plan on taking cake layers in the freezer and frosting in the refrigerator so I can put together their wedding cake back there. I've been making decorations for the past couple weeks, but plan to wait til the last minute to bake the cakes. After the wedding, we'll meander home, stopping in UP of Michigan and maybe Minnesota to try some canoeing and hiking.

We've made all the Chapter 4 luncheons so far this summer, but missed the rally because of the Teton trip. It's always a fun get together at Country Buffet. Wish we could have seen everyone at the rally too. Maybe next year!

*Jack & Shirley Krohn write . . .*

Summer finally arrived when we were in OH on 23 June! Shirley put away the warmer clothes at least three times this spring only to have to get them out again. Even PA was damp, rainy and coldish most of early to mid-June.

We spent about two weeks visiting family in PA before heading west again. We stopped in OH for RV service (no, they didn't find the leaks, at least not all of them, boo hoo). Murphy was busy here--the AC didn't turn on one day (switch), we had water in a storage area even days after the rain stopped (water heater leaking; can't complain--it was 18 yrs old!) and Shirley's almost as old, faithful hair dryer (read: leak dryer) quit. We were able to have the water heater replaced on-site but we had to go to Wal Mart for a hair dryer!

East coast RV parks sure are different from what we are used to in the SW. The CCGN park we stayed at in PA charged for visitors! In our 8 years of full timing, this is the first we encountered that. Our relatives there said that is a common practice (probably because they are local family camps). Woodlands on the Waters near Newaygo, MI, is a family camp and a wood-burning camp--campfires day and night and lots and lots and lots of smoke (probably the reason we haven't seen any mosquitos!). It is a quite different Western Horizons Resort (acquired this spring)--a lodge, a restaurant, an ice cream parlor, deeded lots, rental lots, a gazillion trees (read: tight parking, but lots of welcome shade).

Now we are at Grace Youth Camp near Mears, MI, where we will do volunteer work in Jul, Aug and Sep. We spent one month there last summer and really enjoyed the folks and the location so we look forward to another opportunity to work with them.

In late Aug we will return to PA for a week for a family reunion and after we finish our Sep project in MI we'll be on our way to CO. We are looking forward to seeing some of you at the Denver luncheon.

*Harold & Bonnie Smith write . . .*

We've also been busy this summer. Went fishing at Taylor Reservoir for a week. It was cold at night over there and fishing not the best. Hope to attend Colorado Springs luncheon tomorrow. July 22nd Harold and I will celebrate our Golden Anniversary. Will get together with family. Don't know what we will do this winter.

*Paul & Sandy Chamberlin write . . .*  
Cruzin' with the Chamberlin's

On June 16 we loaded our Granddaughter, Brittany, into the motorhome and headed north towards Rapid City, SD. Our first stop was Cabella's in Sidney, NE, and a motel Brittany's other grandparents owned many years ago. She really enjoyed that.

Our next stop was Fort Robinson, near Crawford, NE. There's a very nice campground there and lots of history. We learned that Crazy Horse was killed there (this was interesting because we were heading for the Crazy Horse Monument the next day). While in Rapid City we also visited Mount Rushmore, Custer State Park, Bear Country and several other tourist places. On our trip to Custer State Park, SKP's Ralph and Bev Hosford joined us.

We stayed at Hart Ranch during our visit. It's a very nice resort with lots of activities. Brittany was especially fond of the hot tub for kids, the swimming pool and pool table.

For the most part we had a fun trip to Hutchinson, MN, and the 25th Birthday of Escapees. The not so fun part was dodging the tornados and Midwest storms. We were 6 miles south of Hutchinson when they told us to head for cover. Earlier in the day we had driven through the town of Buffalo Lake, MN (10 miles from us) which was severely damaged by at least one tornado. Our vantage (?) point was the women's restroom in the campground.

There were around 975 attendees at the Party. It was a great way to put Fun Days to rest for a while. Joe & Kay Peterson and Bud & Cathy Carr were well remembered with memory pages sent in by the Escapees Family.

We had a good time serving coffee and donuts to everyone. Our granddaughter saw some friends from last year and made some new ones this year.

Brittany's Mom and Dad picked her up in Loveland on the 6th of July and we spent a couple of days at the Keeler RV Resort west of Loveland. July 8th we made the 610 mile round trip to Grand Junction to help Rocky Mountain Hi Chapter 2 celebrate their birthday and elect new officers. They have scheduled a rally in Montrose, Sep 29,30 and Oct 1 & 2 (see rally information elsewhere in newsletter).

The Rocky Mountain Regional Rally was another great success. Ken and the crew put on a great program. We enjoyed being VCR's for the rally.

After the Chapter 4 rally we headed west to California. The trip was not without some excitement; our motorhome sprung an oil leak outside Rock Springs, WY. It was repaired, so we thought, and were on our way. We hadn't gone 50 to 60 miles and the motorhome sprung another leak. Amazingly we were able to limp into a Freightliner dealer in Salt Lake City.

We ended up spending the weekend in SLC touring, doing some family research, and visiting with some high school friends we hadn't seen for several years. Despite the delay, we had a great time in SLC.

Monday Freightliner got us on our way and we scurried across the deserts in Utah and Nevada to Dixon, CA, to visit cousins and an aunt who will soon be 90 years young. We had a super time there, even with temperatures in the lower 100's. (It fact, we've been gone 19 days and all but one day the temperature has been over 100.) While visiting our family we received some very sad news about one of our Escapee family, Adele Clifton. She has two stage 4 cancerous tumors in her brain, plus a spot on her lung.

They were in MI when she was flown to Phoenix by SkyMed for treatment and so they could be near their home at North Ranch in Congress, AZ. We swung by Phoenix on our way home to see if we could be of help. We were able to give them moral support and get them settled in their home at North Ranch.

We're back in Colorado for Sandy's 40th class reunion, our oldest son's 10th anniversary and then we head east. We will VCR a Chapter 6 rally in Hart, MI, Sept 3-7, take the motorhome to Newmar for some warranty work and then the fall Escapade in Goshen, IN, Sept 14-18. Following the Escapade we will go to PA to visit Sandy's aunt and then on to Disney World. Our kids and granddaughter are finally making it to the MOUSE HOUSE. Come on down for a visit, we'll be there Oct 1 through Jan 5, 2004.

Please travel safe, keep Dan and Adele in your thoughts and prayers, and we'll see you down the road.

*Ed & Gloria Helmuth write . . .*

We returned from two months of touring Turkey by RV at the end of June and have been visiting in Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin since then. We spent a week in Chicago, playing tourist, then went to the Oshkosh Air Show. What an experience! Over 20,000 camping units, over 15,000 airplanes, and it rained every day. If you are into airplanes, of any size or purpose, this show is for you. We are looking forward to seeing all our Escapee friends at Fall Escapade at Goshen, IN September 14-19, 2003.

*Tom & Marion Braum write . . .*

(Jun) We were in Florida at a nephew's wedding; forgot that we were leaving the day before the Denver luncheon.

While we were there, we visited the Morris's in Haines City, FL. They also were at the last CSP luncheon. They have a nice single wide and still travel in their Trek MH.

Something to be aware of:

The other day (early June) we stopped at Travel Centers of America (I-70 and Ward Road/Denver west Colorado) for fuel. The pump read \$1.459/ gal. and I put it on a credit card. We had to go inside for the receipt which had a \$1.529/gal. We asked about it. New policy: 7 cents per gallon if you use a credit card. **The pumps were not marked.** (They acknowledged the pumps weren't marked). *(Submitted by Paul Chamberlin)*

## SENIOR CITIZEN BENEFITS

Did you know there might be state assistance in the form of benefits available to you that you might not even know about?

(If you're not considered a senior, age 50 and above, share this information with parents and /or friends.)

There are hundreds of public assistance programs that exist today and are available today by utilizing a program called *BenefitsCheckUp*. ([www.benefitscheckup.com](http://www.benefitscheckup.com))

This web based program is a service of the National Council on the Aging (NCOA).

The process is simple. *BenefitsCheckUp.com* is a short questionnaire with easy-to-understand questions that will help figure out what programs you are likely to be eligible for.

You will not be asked to give your name or social security number. You will be asked to give your zip code because where you live can help decide the closest location to apply for certain programs. You will be asked your age, whether or not you served in the military, if you are disabled, what your monthly income is--questions like that.

It's very easy to do and will take about 10 to 15 minutes

Check it out. I found it to be very informative.

*(Submitted by Paul Chamberlin)*

### MAILING LABEL DATE

*CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL--THE DATE ON IT IS THE DATE YOUR DUES EXPIRE--send renewal dues (\$5) to Brenda McFillen, Treasurer, 15925 Herring Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80908.*

### ADDRESS AND E-MAIL CHANGES

If (when!) you have a change in mailing address or e-mail, please advise your editor (see addresses under **IF YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT**). Also, if you'd like to save the Chapter some \$, you can get your newsletter by e-mail. It will come as a PDF file attached to your e-mail, in living color, and you can print it if you want to. I like information by e-mail so I can save it without adding weight to the rig!

### Chapter 4 VOICE MAIL BOX:

888-757-7701, Ext 09004

Hear the latest info on Chapter 4 activities.

### Rocky Mountain Hi Chapter 2 Rally

Sept 29,30 and Oct 1 & 2, 2003

#### Country Village RV Resort

22045 Hwy 550 (mile marker 120)

Montrose, CO 81401

This is approximately 9 miles south of downtown Montrose where US Hwy 50 & Hwy 550 intersect.

There's a \$5.00 registration fee and the daily fee of \$12.00 with full hookups. There will be games and entertainment.

A business meeting is planned.

RSVP to Richard Babcock

Phone: 970/240-0174

Cell: 970/596-5033

E-mail: [erbabcock@frontier.net](mailto:erbabcock@frontier.net)

Address: 22045 Hwy 550

Montrose, CO 81401

### CHAPTER T-SHIRTS

Chapter 4 T-shirts are now available. The cost is \$15.00 for the shirt without a pocket and \$17.00 for the shirts with a pocket with all profits going to CARE. The new polo shirts which are royal blue in color have sold quite well. You may order from:

[bodonb@aol.com](mailto:bodonb@aol.com) or 11191 S. Cambridge Ct, Parker, CO 80138 or 303-841-3947



### CHAPTER 4 WEB PAGE

You can access the Chapter 4 web page at the following URL:

[www.escapees.com/website/chapters/4](http://www.escapees.com/website/chapters/4)

## Travels with Roger and Brenda McFillen in Mexico (Cont'd)

25 Feb

Saltillo: Parked at the convention center on route 54. Had a free day here. Spanish lesson in the AM after the 0900 road log meeting where they handed out printed directions to Matehuala. (54 to 57 headed towards Zacatecas.)

When we arrived day before yesterday (Sun) there was a huge church service going on in the center. A group of small boys, 5-8 I'd guess, tried to give us a small puppy. I took their picture with the dog behind our rig. The dog attended our meeting yesterday and a lady held him for a while. Mary Busick has a new dog she got just before they started this trip. It's small and cute. A Mexican family stopped by last night to see what was going on with 75 rigs parked here and their little girl wanted to pet Mary's dog. The stray puppy ran up to them and Mary ask if they would like to give him a good home. The man got out, opened the back door and the dog jumped in! Mary is the wife of our "Tail Gunner." SKP's are such nice folks!

In town we visited a church and a serape factory where they do hand weaving and went to WalMart! Their Super Centers are really impressive--great selection and the bakery does wonderful stuff for 1/4 the price we usually pay for bread and pastries. I got a long handled brush to wash the rig for \$3. I think you could live here for about 1/3 to 1/2 of what it costs up north.

At 0800 Tues 25 Feb it's 40 degrees and a little foggy; looks like it will burn off before we leave. The first group left at 0700--wagon boss and parking crew. Others leave at 15 min. intervals. We're last and scheduled for 1000, but could get off early.

26 Feb.

Travel to Queretaro on Highway 57 all the way. Better scenery today and lots of 4-lane roads. The closer we get to Mexico City the better the roads. We passed through what I think was an Indian Reservation. They had stands beside the road selling snake skins, coon skins, live coons, hawks and eagles. I wanted to stop and look, but couldn't--one disadvantages of group travel!

Another group met us here. They have been here a week setting up tours and checking out where to get stuff and important locations like WalMart and Costco! We are now up to 85 rigs and more will join us at our Mexico City stop. We'll be NW about 30--40 clicks and will take tours into the city.

Today we were up early for a 0715 line up due to the way we were parked in aisles, #1 had to leave before #2 could get out. Our lead had a flat on his toad, so we changed it, he drove to the Pemex station 200 yds away; they could NOT find a leak anywhere. Aired it up for no charge and we had it back on in 15 mins. Made our 0845 launch time! Don and Mary Busick had to stay back with a Class A with tranny problems. The GREEN Angels found them help, got it fixed for \$75 and they rolled in about 1600; we got here at 1430. The Korsmo's became the "Duck Tail" (tailgunner) and did a good job. We have full hook ups, but the electric has an open ground so we won't plug the rig in, but Brenda used it to iron a dress for the Margarita Party (music, a Mariachi 3-piece and they all sang).

Two free days here. Tomorrow we're taking the bus to town (6P) for a trolley tour of the historic part of the city (25P, English speaking guide); lunch, walking tour on our own and maybe dinner if the busses are still running.

The Busicks want to do some touring after the rally over to Guanauato, Guadaulaja and a few more places, soooo we'll hook up with them and some other folks.

We had lunch at a roadside cafe--excellent at \$4 each. A truck pulling a 5th wheel had a flat on a 4-lane road with no place to pull off, so the folks in front and behind him directed traffic while he changed the tire.

Day 6, 25 Feb, Matehuala

One of the best days so far for views and roadside "events!" First time we've seen Joshua trees, conifers, and palm trees growing on the same hillside. Interesting mix. I always think of palms as being a sea level type tree, but we're over 1600 meters or 5,000 ft, +! There are palm trees and agave in the courtyard/pool area at the motel where we parked. Michala and I went for a swim and the water was really cold. She was shivering when she got out even wrapped in two towels. She "saved" a lady bug's life by getting it out of the water and drying it off! Played with it for at least 15 min and was planning on taking it back to her rig with her. Grandma said she had to finish her lessons before she could play with it any more. She loves Math and is 8-10 pages ahead in it but behind in something else.

Highway 54 to 57. Easy navigating, but lots of traffic and big trucks getting out of town. You really have to stay on your toes in city traffic 'cause folks will do anything to get around you sooooo they can see. Good roads and lots of 4-lane and no toll roads.

They have real cowboys and girls down here herding cows and horses; many times all alone with 60-100 head. Brenda waved to one and he did a "HI HO Silver," stood his horse on it's hind legs and swung lariat around his head - IMPRESSIVE!

Our lunch break was a nice paved truck pull out with room for all seven rigs. As I was putting our steps up I noticed someone had "taken a dump" and left the TP on top to mark the spot. Dogs don't do that! Then I walked forward to take a picture of our group and found another LARGE pile w/TP marker. When I told Brenda to be careful where she stepped, her comment was "Well, we haven't seen any rest stops and folks have to GO!" I took pictures to document the find!

We're out of the high desert and into the lower foothills. No mountains yet but one steep grade that gave the class A's some trouble, like down to 20 MPH. Our tranny seldom gets above 160, but to day it hit 200, the highest I've ever seen it. I usually go up the hills at 65-75 and this Allison stays locked up!

Tonight we're split between two large motel parking lots and a PEMEX station. Tight, but we all fit. Getting unscrambled in the morning will be interesting. Our group, The Deming Ducks, took our leader and tail gunner to dinner to show them how much we appreciated all their hard work. (Continued next page.)

## Travels with Roger and Brenda McFillen in Mexico (Cont'd)

27 Feb - Queretaro

Free day - took the bus to town for a trolley tour with an English speaking guide, but his accent was so strong we could only understand about 25% of what he had to say! 1 hr. for 25P. Had a great lunch at a sidewalk cafe, shopping and walking tour. Got a backpack (forgot our good one at home!) and a new sun hat for Spook cause he put his good straw hat on top of the truck the morning we left Matehuala and it blew off enroute. Headed back in tomorrow to do the same thing. Tour, shop, lunch and maybe a haircut for Spook! Wish me luck! Bed time. 0900 meeting in the morning for the next leg to Tepotzotlan. Official opening of the rally with special guests and music.

28 Feb -

Today we didn't leave till 1000. About a 120 mile drive to Tepotzotlan. Excellent road most of the way. We're about 40 miles from the center of Mexico City, the largest city in the world; 25 million folks or about 12% of the population of the USA!!

Getting off the 4-lane, toll road and into the park was quite a trick. Very narrow streets in the hills with cars parked on both sides of the street, PLUS two-way traffic--it was a HOOT. Very glad we're in a small rig and no toad. I stopped once because there was NOT enough room to get thru, but a lady in a old white Chevy tried to get thru and swapped paint with a black VW that was parked, but the owner saw it happen. She stopped, backed up into a space behind the bug and he was giving her "what for" as we inched past. Just glad it was him and not me.

We got here mid-afternoon and got a really good parking spot, electric and sewer, but no water--yet. The meeting at 1700 tonight was the "Official" start of the Mexican Connection Rally. At the meeting special guests and dignitaries were introduced. The mayor's wife was there, but due to the Mexican election laws the mayor could not attend because it's too close to elections.

Pepe is quite a character. Speaks very good English and told us the story about how this park got started. There was a margarita party and snacks and soft drinks that Pepe and his family furnished. Small gifts were given out to the ladies.

Early go tomorrow.--0800 bus pick up for the Folkloric Ballet (history of Mexican dances) and Xochimilco, sooooo it's bed time for Spook.

1 Mar

Superb day! Bused into the city for the Mexican Ballet, or Folklorico de Mexico. We had excellent seats. Finished in 1934, there is not a bad seat in the house. The curtain, lights and overhead stained glass are all by Tiffany. 18 dances with music from different areas of the country. Very colorful dress and impressive Palace of Fine Arts. We left the park at 0815 and the performance started at 0930.

Amalia Hernandez, dancer and choreographer founded the Ballet Folklorica de Mexico. In 1954 she started a series of presentations that established her as the Cultural Rep. of Mexico to the world at large. She put together 40 ballets with 76 dancers. She and her troop have received over 200 awards in recognition of their artistic merits!

Picture a Marimba sooooo long it takes 5 BIG guys to play it. Standing shoulder to shoulder the base part sticks out another 2-3 feet beyond the guy on the right. DEEP rich sound! The performance lasted two hrs.

Back on the bus for a short city tour enroute to XOCHIMILCO, it means the place of flowering gardens. The city started on an island in the center of a very large lake (9% of the city's total area). It is a series of canals that flat bottom boats 30' long and about 10' wide are poled along by men/boys at the front. Each seats 15-20 folks, chairs along the side with a table down the middle. Very colorfully painted, each has a name and you hire them by the hour. Beer and soft drinks are a dollar each. Vendors in smaller boats come along side to sell blankets, flowers, roasted corn, carvings, food, kids toys, etc. We were on the water about an hour. Back ashore is a market and we got a new hanging string chair for our patio. The one we have has lots of UV damage and is starting to come apart. Replacement net was going to be over \$85 and we got this one for \$20 and a much better design--white and green to match the trim on the house!

Today we spent all day at the Pyramids of Teotihuacan. LOTS of walking and the top is 720+ steps and we're above 8,000' so I'll let some young stud take our camera up and get a few shots!

2 Mar

Looks like another GREAT day in Mexico. After the 0900 meeting we headed into town via bus #74. Saw the aqueduct over 6 miles long, built in the early 1800's and still in use to day. Impressive fountains.

We had lunch at a little hole in the wall place where the nice lady made the corn tortillas, heated them on top of what looked like a 50-gallon drum top but was actually a standard Mexican grill, propane fired. I've seen them in hardware stores. Speaking of hardware, a hinge on a cabinet door in the bedroom broke. I took it with me and bought a SET exactly like we have in this camper for 8P--40 cents each. At camping country they would have been \$4 EACH!

We went to an art museum. Different is all I can say. Mostly religious stuff. A big group of Jr Hi school kids were there. Just like up north, the boys have their pants as low as they can get them with out falling off and the girls tease them and each other. Kids are just about the same the world over. They were all in uniform.

*(More next quarter)*

## Colorado State Parks Fee Structure Changes Proposed

----- Original Message -----

From: FMCA Governmental and Legislative Affairs Committee

RE: Colorado park fee changes and discontinuance of free camping privileges for senior citizens

The following news release was taken from the Colorado State Government Web site: [www.parks.state.co.us](http://www.parks.state.co.us). Since the proposal's provisions affect certain FMCA members who reside in Colorado, it is being forwarded to you so that you may be aware of its contents and take whatever action you deem best.

FMCA staff has been asked to send this memo by electronic mail to speed delivery of the message as well as effect a monetary savings for the association. Please pass the message along to others as you wish.

### NEWS RELEASE

Colorado State Parks is considering making changes to our current fee structure, and we want to know what you think. On September 19, 2003, the Colorado State Parks Board is scheduled to vote on a package of proposed State Park fee regulation changes, to be implemented January 1, 2004. In an effort to be as forthcoming as possible, we're beginning a public outreach process to bring Parks users up to speed on why we think changes to the fee structure are necessary at this time.

For specific information regarding changes to the Aspen Leaf Pass, go to:

[http://www.parks.state.co.us/home/fee\\_changes.asp](http://www.parks.state.co.us/home/fee_changes.asp)

### NEWS RELEASE

#### Aspen Leaf Pass - Proposed Changes Background

o Colorado's state parks have long been funded under a philosophy that those of us who use the state parks should contribute our fair share to the cost of operating the parks. This approach has been supported by the State Legislature and our park visitors.

o This philosophy has guided Colorado's decisions on state park entrance fees, camping fees and other fees paid by park visitors.

o We are now faced with shrinking General Fund support and direction to become more self-sufficient through user fees. With this in mind, Colorado State Parks simply must look at adjusting the price breaks for Colorado seniors that are provided through the Aspen Leaf Annual Pass.

o Since 1975, the Aspen Leaf Annual Pass has enabled Colorado seniors to access state parks and campgrounds for a substantial discount. The current \$10 Aspen Leaf Annual pass price (an 80% discount off of the regular Parks Annual Vehicle Pass) has not changed in 12 years, longer than any other state park fee.

Proposed changes to the Aspen Leaf Annual Pass  
On September 19, 2003 the State Parks Board will consider taking action to change discounted fees provided to Colorado seniors who visit state parks. The proposed changes include:

o Adjusting the Aspen Leaf pass price to \$35, which would still provide a 36% discount off of the regular Parks

Annual Vehicle Pass price proposed to take effect January 1, 2004.

o Increasing the age of eligibility for the Aspen Leaf pass from 62 to 64 years.

o Requiring Aspen Leaf pass holders to pay the same rates for camping as other state park visitors. These changes to the Aspen Leaf pass will provide an estimated \$374,000 in additional revenue within the first year.

Why these changes are needed

o In the next 22 years the number of Coloradans age 65 and older is expected to double, giving our state one of the fastest growing elderly populations in the country (2000 US Census). The projected Colorado senior growth rate from 2010 through 2025 is more than triple that of any other age segment. In that same time, the proportion of Colorado State Parks visitors who are 62 or older will almost double.

o These changing park visitor demographics will create a growing gap between expenses and revenue available to meet those expenses. This increases pressure to: 1) increase fees to those park visitors who do not receive a discount; and 2) request greater General Fund support.

o It is critical that all park visitors who make a livable income pay fees more equitably. If the Parks Board adopts the fee proposal, however, those seniors with severe financial needs may be eligible for the proposed \$10 Limited Income Annual Pass or the Columbine Pass.

How do Colorado State Parks' senior discounts compare to other price breaks offered to senior citizens?

o Of the twenty-five states offering senior park entrance discounts, Colorado's 80% discount is near the top.

o Colorado and Washington are the only states that provide free camping. Twenty-five other state park systems offer no camping discount at all.

o Among the 12 states offering both an entrance and camping discount to seniors, Colorado State Parks provides the deepest discounts.

o The senior discounts for Colorado State Parks are more generous than most other price breaks offered to senior citizens in Colorado:

- 80% off of regular Colorado State Parks Annual Pass
- 30% off Denver Museum of Nature & Science
- 30% off Denver Botanic Gardens
- 25% off Denver Art Museum
- 24 % off YMCA membership
- 20% off Denver Zoo
- 15% off Colorado Ocean Journey
- 10% off Colorado Symphony Orchestra
- 10 to 60% off Colorado ski area tickets
- 10% (or less) off dining

7/14/03 (Submitted by Tom Braum)

**2003 COLORADO  
ESCAPEES LUNCHEON SCHEDULE**

**COLORADO SPRINGS LUNCHEONS  
Chapter 4 Hosts**

**May, Jun, Jul, Aug, and Sep**

2nd Monday 11:30 am, Country Buffet,  
751 N. Academy Blvd., between Galley & Platte, in Citadel  
Crossing (between K-Mart & Best Buy)

8 September

**SOUTH DENVER LUNCHEONS  
Chapter 4 Hosts**

**Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep**

4th Tuesday, 11:30, Country Buffet,  
7475 Park Meadows Dr, Littleton (C-470 & Quebec, south-  
behind Pep Boys and before Sam's on left)  
26 August  
23 September

**NORTH COLORADO LUNCHEONS  
Chapter 4 Hosts**

For dates and location e-mail or call  
Ken Keeler, #40065, kencherie@jymis.com  
970-667-1202



All Escapees and wannabes are invited to the monthly luncheons. Come meet with your friends for food and fun.

**BUENA VISTA LUNCHEONS  
Chapter 2 Hosts**

1st and 3rd Tues - 1 p.m. May, Jun, Aug, Sep  
Jan's Restaurant, 304 US Hwy 24,  
Buena Vista  
In 2004, 3rd Tues only

**GRAND JUNCTION LUNCHEONS  
Chapter 2 Hosts**

2nd Tues - 1200 noon, May to Sep  
Golden Corral, 1100 Independent Ave  
On Hwy 6 & 50, in front of Sam's Club

S. Krohn (Mt Echoes)  
159 Rainbow Dr #5915  
Livingston, TX 77399-1059

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