

# ICC NEWSLETTER

December, January and February

2025/2026



*Come for the Fun, Stay for the Friendships!*

## "President's Column"

Well, it is that time of year for some to winterize and put their units to bed for the winter and others to get on the road and search for the warmer weather for the winter season!

No matter which group you are in remember to book for the 2026 Rally in Mayberry, NC! We are looking forward to this Rally and Jerry & Christine have worked hard to make sure we will enjoy the area and all the games and fellowship!

We want to wish everyone the safest of travels, a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

Tim & Kathy Nowak  
ICC President



## INTERNATIONAL



## "Chaplain's Corner"

### "Autumn"

by R. Brooks Silver

"There are scientific reasons  
During Autumn for the leaves  
To the changing of the colors  
As they rustle in the breeze.

Fall has come upon us  
But no artist could delight  
With a more fantastic painting  
Than each year it is the plight..  
Of Mother Nature, in her glee,  
To paint the leaves in hues  
With magnificence in wonders  
Of the blends that she will use.  
So with the splendor of her breath  
She paints a gracious gift  
For all who would enjoy the scenes..  
Each gaze gives hearts a lift!  
Some would say there is no magic here;  
It's all by science done.  
Mother Nature simply winks an eye  
And thanks a Hand Above."

~~~~~

*"May God be a gracious to us and bless us;  
may God's face shine upon us."  
~Psalm 67:2*

~~~~~

May our Canadian friends have a blessed Thanksgiving in October, and our American friends in November! We are happy to see Jerry Morris returned safely from his mission. Joanne Clements continues to improve from her surgery.

*More Chaplain's Corner on page 2*

## "Chaplain's Corner" [con't]

"A Christmas Song"  
by Margaret Peterson

"Angels sang a song of love  
One dark and starry night  
To shepherds watching over flock  
Of sheep so soft and white.  
They sang of Christ our Saviors birth  
And told them where He lay  
In Bethlehem, in swaddling clothes,  
On softest golden hay.  
Down through the years, their song of love  
Comes to everyone,  
Who, deep within his heart, believes  
Jesus is God's Son.  
This Christmastime, let Jesus' love  
Bless everything you do,  
So home becomes a Bethlehem  
Where Christmas dreams come true."

"May He grant you joy of heart  
and may peace abide among you."

~Survey 50:23

This is our Christmas wish for you,  
in these turbulent times,  
and for all who are in need :



Belief Brings Peace  
by G.M. Lauren

" Believe in God's faithfulness  
In whatever you do;  
Believe in His wisdom  
To do right by you.  
For His knowledge surpasses  
The wisest of men ,  
And his power is greater  
Than we comprehend.  
With One such as He  
In our hearts, by our side,

We can walk down life's roads  
With a confident stride.  
And though there are troubles  
And trials in this life,  
Know the great God of Heaven  
Can handle your strife."

~~~~~

*"Therefore I tell you,  
all that you ask for in prayer,  
believe that you will receive it  
and it shall be yours."*

~Mark 11:24

~~~~~

Sometimes we all need a little boost! Please remember in your prayers Taylor and Erin Sprinkle who await twins, and Paul Muthig. He is still in hospital, trying to find placement in a rehab facility. His stroke affected his right side. He is battling to regain use of that arm and leg and has made progress with the arm. He is fully aware of his condition, but the dementia sneaks in there especially when he's tired. This gentle giant has been labeled as having behavior problems so local facilities won't offer a bed.

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(\*\* More of a boost! From Ann Sprinkle in a Tuesday Nov 4th email: "Taylor and Erin had the twins on Oct 26th. They were 8 weeks early so they will be in the NICU for 6 weeks. Everyone is doing good.

Please continue prayers for the family.

~~~~~

From Cheryl Muthig in a Monday Oct 27th messenger: "[Paul] has been offered a bed in Achieve Nursing and Rehab here in town. He should move in tomorrow. It's been very hard on him, what with the stroke and dementia but he keeps trying!"

Please continue prayers for Paul & Cheryl. kn)

Cheryl Muthig  
Chaplain



## A Note From The Secretary

Let me start by wishing everyone a very happy holiday season- Happy Hanukkah, a joyous winter solstice, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy New Year, and through to the Epiphany, and Valentine's Day!

Well, there are several big things in this newsletter, as there are every December. 2026 Dues! Be sure you have your dues sent in to Kathy Hoff by **January 31st- this will be your only notice on this**, so please put it high on your To Do list!

Also, there is the Patt and Virginia Patterson Scholarship form. If you have a high school senior who is thinking of college, look over the guidelines, and send your application in to the Scholarship Chairs, Bob and Joanne Hafner, no later than **February 28!**

I am thankful for a good camping season, and sad that it's over. Tim and I are so sad that we missed the rally this past year. We are so thankful for all the people that stepped up to help make the rally run smoothly - Larry & Nancy Conway, Kathy & Keith Hoff, Cheryl Muthig, Bob & Joanne Hafner, and all the many campers who helped at the Rally.

We have had a good Fall and look forward to Thanksgiving! We are going to be able to spend Thanksgiving with Tim's mom, Mary Nowak. For some of a certain longevity with the ICC you may remember Ray & Mary Nowak, Mary now lives in Hubbard Hill Health Care and will be 89 on Dec 1st! We will celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Eve with our son, daughter-in-law, and grandkids in Indy.

As the holidays approach I would like to just say that I wish peace and joy to everyone during this holiday season and into the new year- be kind, be loving, be happy.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kathy & Tim Nowak  
ICC Secretary



## Why do we sit around a campfire?

By Sandi Strum in [rvtravel.com](http://rvtravel.com)

I must be reminded to sit around a campfire.

These reminders often originate from a solar event, such as the winter solstice, or more recently, the fall equinox. The campfire is a great place to release things you no longer want in your life, such as worry and stress.

We don't have a fire all summer because the days are too long, and I am usually in bed before dark. Sad, but true. Additionally, we endured temps of 100+ degrees for many weeks. Who wants to sit around a campfire when you are already sweating?

About four weeks ago, we bought some pre-packaged firewood for convenience. However, we hauled it around to three more spots before setting it ablaze -- on the fall equinox.

We had to because, while in Keystone, SD, we drove past an epic wood carver who had a bin outside that said, "Free Fire Starter." We loaded up our foldable box and then carried it around to the next stop.

I refused to haul both the bundle and the box to another location!

It's all gone now, and we probably won't have another fire until the Winter Solstice.

Last year, while in Texas, I started a new tradition of lighting luminaria around the woods while we sat by the campfire.

On December 21, the sun goes down before dinnertime, which fits into our schedules just fine. The luminaria grew brighter as the sky darkened. It was magical.

*[continued next page]*



"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."

~ John Steinbeck

*Happy Winter Solstice*

**Winter Begins, 12/21**

## Why do we sit around a campfire? *[cont.]*

By Sandi Strum in [rvtravel.com](http://rvtravel.com)

But around our recent campfire, I started to wonder why people like this transition. It is obviously not convenient most of the time, especially for full-timers.

But there is something embedded in our DNA that draws us to fire. For hundreds of thousands of years, our ancestors depended on fire for survival -- for warmth, protection from predators, and for cooking.

The flames hypnotize us. The crackling sounds soothe our souls. The warmth makes us feel safe.

And as Wayne says, the smoke smell is my favorite aftershave on him.

So, you can say we have a primal connection with fire.

It is also a social equalizer.

When you sit with friends, sometimes strangers, around a campfire, social hierarchies tend to dissolve. Strangers become friends and stories are shared without pretense.

Those stories are much more dramatic as flickering light casts shadows on the storyteller's face. That light brings a serene feeling that light from a screen could never replace.

While working in Yosemite last summer, we invited campers to sit around a long, propane fireplace and sip wine. We would have 20-30 people each week sharing their crazy RV stories

Just the two of us sat around our last campfire. It was time to unwind and take in the night sky. And that's okay too.

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### Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day. You shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense."

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## News, News, News Dues, New Guidelines, and Other News

### 2026 Dues Registration Form Things to Know...

\* Your dues form is in this newsletter - your dues should be submitted no later than January 31, 2026.

\* You can pay by Check, Zelle, PayPal, or Venmo!

Make checks payable to:  
I.C.C. or International Camper Club  
and mail to Kathy Hoff at:  
5608 Oak Park Rd  
Oakwood Hills, IL 60013

The email for **electronic payments**:  
ICCPay123@gmail.com

Check with Kathy Hoff if you would like to use an alternate type of payment application.

Contact her through the club email:  
internationalcampclub@gmail.com

\* Whether you mail your payment or make electronic payments- **please** fill out the contact information and verify birthdays and anniversary dates, and send that in by USPS or by email  
(please use the club email address internationalcampclub@gmail.com).

**I need this information to update the  
ICC Directory and  
the Birthdays/Anniversaries  
page in the newsletter.**

Thank you!!



## News, News, News

### Dues, New Guidelines, and Other News

#### 2026 Dues Registration Form

Now is the time to think about filling out your 2026 registration form and sending it with your dues in to Kathy Hoff!

The registration form has been revised a bit, so be sure to update your e-mail address(s) and phone number(s).

**Note: This will be your only notice for paying dues.**

Please pay dues in a timely manner. It takes funds to print and mail newsletters, if you have not sent in your dues, you will cease to receive newsletters with club and rally information, and lose your membership.

**Dues Must be Paid by January 31, 2026**

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We camp  
not to escape Life,  
but so that Life  
doesn't escape us!

"So [then shepherds] hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

~Luke 2:16-19



**Christmas Eve, 12/24**

**Christmas Day, 12/25**

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#### Patt and Virginia Patterson Scholarship Application

#### Important Highlights

Don't delay - children or grandchildren of members in good standing are eligible to apply!

**Applicants!** Please remember all applications must be submitted to Bob and Joanne Hafner, Scholarship Chairs, and in their hands no later than February 28, 2026

This cut-off date is firm.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bob & Joanne Hafner  
845 Bridge St.  
Catasauqua, PA 18032  
[internationalcampclub@gmail.com](mailto:internationalcampclub@gmail.com)

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*Application is included with this newsletter.  
If it is missing- contact the club secretary at  
[internationalcampclub@gmail.com](mailto:internationalcampclub@gmail.com)*

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**Weird Canada**  
*Beautiful country...some odd news stories.*

In the 1910s, Toronto police had full authority over movies, including the right to ban films they considered offensive. The criteria: Any movie that showed a pro-America attitude, murder, or an extramarital romance could be banned. Any movie. In 1911, an inspector reported, "I witnessed a moving picture show of *Hamlet*, written I think by Shakespeare. That's all very well to say it's a famous drama, but it doesn't keep it from being a spectacle of violence." A few weeks later, the same inspector banned a film version of *Romeo and Juliet*.

## News, News, News

### Dues, New Guidelines, and Other News

#### Guidelines for Submission, Voting and Notification of the Patt and Virginia Patterson Scholarship Award

1. The application must be completed and submitted by the applicant to the scholarship chair(s) by **February 28th**. Chair(s) will review the applications.
  - a) Applications may be scanned and emailed to the chair(s) if desired.
2. If there is more than one application the chair(s) will ask, from eligible club members, at least three members to vote for the winning applicant.
  - a) An eligible member is a member in good standing and not related to the applicants.
3. The voting members must return their vote to the scholarship chair(s) by **Apr. 1st**.
4. The scholarship chairs will notify the recipient with a congratulatory letter and notify the ICC board (president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and chaplain) no later than **Apr. 15th**. Also, the chairs will notify the applicants who are not chosen.
5. Recipient does not need to be present for the award presentation at the International Rally.
6. Scholarship award money will be paid to the recipient at completion of their first semester of schooling. Transcripts/Grades should be mailed to the scholarship chair(s), who will then notify the treasurer to release the funds to the scholarship recipient.
7. Unless there are extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control, a student who does not begin their schooling in the fall after graduation from high school will surrender the award back to the scholarship fund.

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*This is your newsletter about your club!  
If you have news, recipes, stories;  
let us know!*

[internationalcampclub@gmail.com](mailto:internationalcampclub@gmail.com)

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#### After the Rally Fun

by Amanda Morris

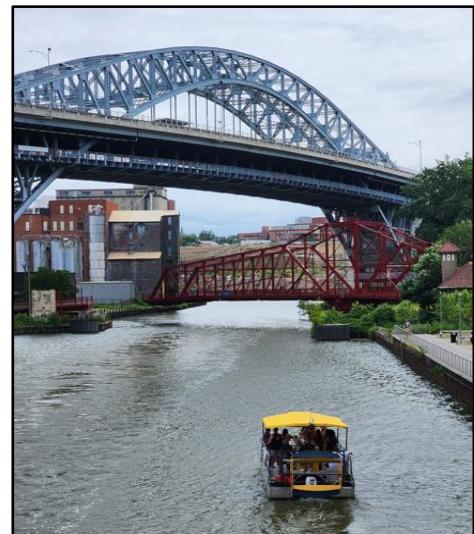
We absolutely loved visiting Lake Erie last summer! Joel enjoyed fishing even though he didn't catch anything. Sight-seeing lighthouses and bird watching on Presque Isle was a highlight for me. I saw a blue heron, a red winged blackbird, and other birds I couldn't identify. I learned that Presque Isle is a resting strip for birds migrating from Canada.



From Erie we went to Cincinnati. Then to Pittsburgh and then back to York. Attached are 2 pictures of us on a river-boat tour in Cincinnati.

*[continued  
next page]*

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"The day after Christmas: When we all have two more ugly sweaters."

~Craig Kilborn



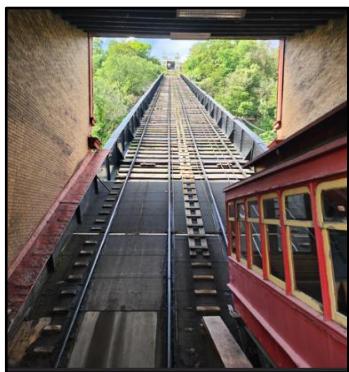
**Boxing Day (Canada), 12/26**

## After the Rally Fun

by Amanda Morris

There were many bridges. This is a picture of a swing bridge closing after we passed through. We also went to a huge mall.

Lastly, attached are 3 pictures of Joel and I in Pittsburgh. While in Pittsburgh for the day, we ate a tasty atomic pepperoni roll, enjoyed window shopping (we're not fans of Pitt teams), and ascended the incline to view the three rivers of Pittsburgh meeting.



Blessings,  
Amanda Morris

## A Peak Into Algonquin Park,

Ontario, Canada

by Ellen Bates

Algonquin Park is the 2nd largest provincial park in Ontario. The largest is Polar Bear Provincial Park, which I'd never heard of before looking this up. Algonquin was established in 1893 for the original purpose of protecting the headwaters of several rivers and to manage logging rights. Over time tourists became more frequent and although logging is still done in the park, you will not see it along the main corridor.

The park has a vast interior of maple hills, rocky ridges, bogs, forest, rivers and thousands of lakes. Travelling the back country can be done on foot or by paddle however you'll find the majority of people in one of 8 campgrounds along a 56 kilometre (35 mile) stretch of Highway 60 which cuts across the southern end of the park. Here you can also enjoy one of the 14 interpretive walks, plenty of longer hikes, ride or walk the rail trail, paddle (reasonable canoe and kayak rentals available) any number of lakes, explore the outdoor logging museum, the visitor centre, art centre, shops, restaurants and even enjoy an ice cream at Lake of Two Rivers (thinking of you Jerry) - we may have done this a few times.

One of the logging barons built the Highland Inn which opened in 1908 and brought people in on the same rail lines taking the logs out of the park. Sitting on Cache Lake, the Inn was a grand place for swimming, boating, fishing, playing tennis and wildlife viewing. Although it



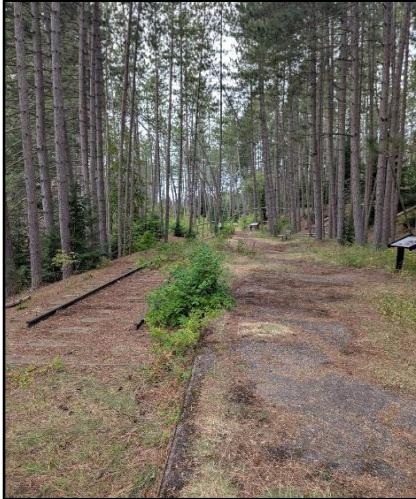
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**A Peak Into Algonquin Park,  
Ontario, Canada**  
by Ellen Bates

closed in 1957 you can still walk on the platform beside some of the remaining rail lines and imagine what it was like to visit over a 100 years ago with interpretive plaques along the way.

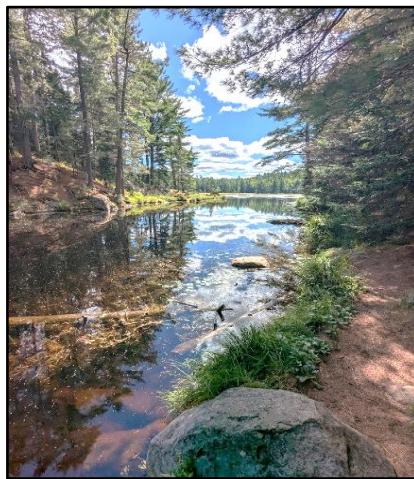
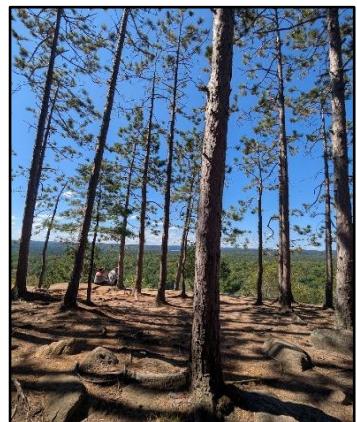
The rest of the railway has been removed and there is a 16 km rail trail between Lake of Two Rivers Camp-ground and Rock Lake Camp-ground. The path runs through the forest and around lakes. We were lucky enough to see two moose along the way.

We hiked quite a few of the interpretive trails. Some were easy and short, others were steep, strenuous and not so short but most had spectacular views. We were there in September and didn't have much of an issue with mosquitos but you should go prepared with water, bug spray, suntan lotion and maybe a personal Sherpa.



*Lookout trail -  
amazing views.*

>>>>>



*Reflections on  
Beaver Pond Trail*

<<<<<

*[continued  
next page]*

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Wilderness is a necessity...there must be places for human beings to satisfy their souls.

~~~~~John Muir~~~~~

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In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.

## A Peak Into Algonquin Park, Ontario, Canada

by Ellen Bates



Pitcher Plant  
on Bog Trail  
<----->

Booth Rock Trail  
(this was the down -  
no stairs on the up -  
spectacular views).

>>>>>



We really enjoyed the logging museum as well. Self-guided walk with interpretative signs really tell the history well.

To camp there are private parks outside of the Provincial Park however if you want to stay in the park in the summer you need to book on the day booking opens 5 months prior. Off season won't be as difficult but it is a popular park. You will likely find yourself doing a fair bit of driving along the corridor to see the different sights although most campgrounds have lakes and are enjoyable without leaving as well. Some have cell service, others none. Some are dry camping, some have water/electric. I don't think any have FHU's. September and early October is a great time to go and see the leaves changing.

## Muthig Family and Relations Honored for Military Service (Aug 3)

[Back on September 16th Cheryl sent this email, an expended version of news that had been in the last newsletter, but I had already published that newsletter. Cheryl's family was given a wonderful honor, and I would like to show you all that she wrote.]

Muthig family and relations were honored by New York State on Aug. 3 for their military service through the years. Each received a Proclamation from the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Josh Riley, and a U.S. Flag with certification that each flag had been flown over the U.S. Capitol Building. State congressmen, the S.C. Sheriffs Dept. and the American Legion were on hand to celebrate with family and friends.



[continued next page]

"New Year's is a harmless annual institution, of no particular use to anybody  
save as a scapegoat for  
promiscuous drunks,  
and friendly calls  
and humbug resolutions."

~Mark Twain



New Year's Eve, 12/31

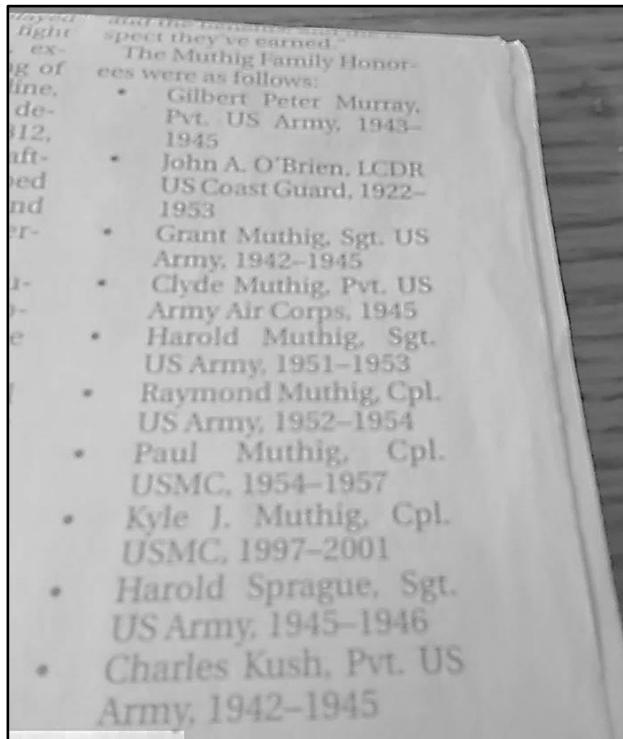
New Year's Day, 1/1

## Muthig Family and Relations Honored for Military Service (Aug 3)

Five Muthig brothers, Kyle Muthig, and four family related veterans were honored, including my dad, Harold Sprague.

Taps were played and the Piper from the Sheriffs Dept. played two selections.

Refreshments were served by the family. It was a beautiful, moving day. Our nephew, Craig Strizzi, worked for months to put this together, and devoted hours to acquiring medals each of these men may have earned. We are so grateful for his efforts, and so proud of these veterans!!



### Odd Odds

That your life will be so remarkable you warrant a mention in a future history book:  
1 in 6 million

That you'll find a pearl in an oyster: 1 in 12,000

That you'll past the age of 115: 1 in 2 billion

## Christmas Movie Quiz

from [www.ChristmasTrivia.net](http://www.ChristmasTrivia.net)

1. How many lights were on the Griswold's house in Christmas Vacation?  
A. 100,000  
B. 25,000  
C. 75,000
2. In A Christmas Story, what gift does Ralphie receive from his aunt?  
A. Underwear  
B. A cowboy hat  
C. A pink bunny suit
3. Finish this iconic line from It's a Wonderful Life: "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his ..."  
A. Halo  
B. Wings  
C. Revenge
4. Buddy the Elf sticks to the four main food groups: candy, candy canes, candy corn, and ...  
A. Syrup  
B. Chocolate Kisses  
C. Donuts
5. What's the highest-grossing Christmas movie of all time?  
A. How the Grinch Stole Christmas  
B. It's a Wonderful Life  
C. Home Alone
6. Describe the Grinch in three words:  
A. Stink, stank, stunk  
B. Green, mean, unclean  
C. Yuck, guck, schmuck
7. What Christmas carol does the Peanuts gang sing at the end of A Charlie Brown Christmas?  
A. Joy to the World  
B. O Little Town of Bethlehem  
C. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



[Answers on page 14]

## International Rally 53 - 2026

*Remembering the Past.....  
making New Memories for the Future*

**Visit Mount Airy/Mayberry**  
Mount Airy is known as the real-life "Mayberry" from the Andy Griffith Show and the boyhood home of Andy Griffith. There are many things to see and do in Mount Airy and surrounding areas - Shop, Dine, Explore, and Play! Use your free time to enjoy it all!



**Shop:** Visit North Main Street in Mount Airy for some souvenirs, Christmas items, candy, gifts, antiques, clothes, and local crafts shopping.

Stroll down North Main Street to visit Mayberry Market & Souvenirs, Mayberry on Main, Bear Creek Gifts and Candy Kitchen, Fancy Gap Outfitters, Mayberry Trading Post, Opie's Candy Store, Un'corked in Mayberry Wine & Craft Beer, and White Elephant Beer Company on Market St.

**Dine:** Dining in, and around, Mount Airy has a wide variety of type and styles of food and drink. Start your day at the Rusty Rooster Southern Breakfast - on Woodland Dr. or Barney's Café on North Main St, which can also be your lunch choice. But if you are willing to maybe have to wait in line, Snappy Lunch's Pork Chop Sandwich is delicious. Prefer a sports pub or brewpub? The Loaded Goat on City Hall St, Angry Troll Brewing - Mount Airy, on North Main St and Thirsty Souls Community Brewing on Market St could fit the bill. There are so many choices for supper - BBQ? Little Richards BBQ on Fredrick St? Ribs, Steaks and Seafood? Check out 13 Bones on South Andy Griffith Pkwy. Down the road from the Mayberry Campground is The Depot Restaurant at Cody Creek on Old Depot Lane south of Dobson, a finer dining southern experience.

**Explore and Play:** North Main Street has tourist attractions to explore, Mayberry Courthouse & Jail, Wally's Service Station, the Darling house, Mount Airy Museum of Regional History, and Mayberry Squad Car Tours. On Rockford St you'll find the Andy Griffith Playhouse, the Andy Griffith Museum, and the Andy and Opie Taylor Monument. Looking for some green space? Riverside Park on Riverside Dr, Veteran's Memorial Park on Lebanon St, Westwood Park on Galax Trial are enjoyable places to exercise, rest, and relax.

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International Rally 53  
July 12 thru 16, 2026

Theme: *Remembering the Past.....  
making New Memories for the Future*



Mayberry Campground  
114 Bunker Rd  
Mount Airy, NC 27030

Phone: 336.789.6199  
Email: mayberrycampground@gmail.com  
Website: mayberrycampground.com

Contacts: [Mary or Loretta](#)  
Let them know you are with  
the ICC Rally in July 2026!

Rally rate is \$50 per night ~ Pay for 6 nights at the regular rate, get the 7th night FREE.  
\$55 deposit required.

Our sites are Sites 6 - 12 and 17 - 31. It is past the 'hold' dates, so it is first come, first serve!

Wagonmasters for Rally 53  
Jerry & Christine Morris

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*more information in next newsletter*

## John & Joanne Clements' 10 Interesting (but useless) Facts

1. A rat can last longer without water than a camel.
2. The dot over the letter "i" is called a tittle.
3. Donald Duck comics were banned in Finland because he didn't wear pants.
4. The Oscars awarded during WWII were made of wood due to the shortage of metal.
5. Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks or it will digest itself.
6. There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with orange, purple or silver.
7. Bats always turn left when exiting a cave.
8. The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law which stated that you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.
9. Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.
10. On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents daily! (That explains a few things.....)

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Parents...

"Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands."  
~ Anne Frank

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### 2026 Dues Renewal Form

*Fill out your form today!  
Send in your form and dues today too!*



Be sure to update your e-mail address and phone numbers!

**~Dues Must be Paid by January 31, 2026~**

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## Things I'm Super Good At

1. Forgetting someone's name 30 seconds after they tell me.
2. Running. Late, that is.
3. Making plans...then regretting making plans.
4. Thinking of a great comeback - an hour later.
5. Digging through the trash for the food box I just tossed, because I already forgot the directions.
6. Adding items to online carts. Then deleting them.
7. Googling my ailments. Then panicking.
8. Leaving laundry to wrinkle in the dryer.
9. Forgetting why I walked into the room.
10. Calculating how much sleep I'll get if I can just "fall asleep right now."

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"Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the figure of a free people. A nation does not have to be cruel to be tough."

~ Franklin Delano Roosevelt

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### Birds Do It...

Pope Gelasius declared February 14 Saint Valentine's Day" at the end of the 5th century. It was in the 1300s, however, that the holiday became associated with romance and love. Why? In France and England during the Middle Ages, it was a common belief that February 14 was the date birds started their mating season.

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"Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone— we find it with another."  
~ Thomas Merton



**Valentine's Day, 2/14**

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## Recipe Corner

### Loaded Cabbage Soup from Kathy Nowak

#### Ingredients

- \* 3 slices bacon, finely chopped (about 1/2 cup)
- \* 1 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, scrubbed and cubed (1/2"; about 2 cups)
- \* 1 medium yellow onion, chopped (about 1-1/2 cups)
- \* 4 small stalks celery, finely chopped (about 3/4 cups)
- \* 6 cups chopped green cabbage
- \* 1 teaspoon garlic and herb seasoning
  - \* 1/2 teaspoons salt
  - \* 1/2 teaspoon ground pepper
- \* 6 cups lower-sodium chicken broth
  - \* 1/2 cup heavy cream
- \* 4 ounces sharp Cheddar Cheese, shredded (about 1 cup)
- \* 4 tablespoons reduced-fat sour cream
- \* 4 tablespoons chopped fresh chives

#### Directions

Step 1 - Place chopped bacon in a large Dutch oven. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until crispy and cooked through, about 5 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the bacon to a paper towel-lined plate. Do not wipe the pot clean.

Step 2 - Add cubed potatoes, chopped onion and chopped celery to the drippings in the pot. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the onion is translucent, about 3 minutes. Stir in 6 cups cabbage, 1 teaspoon garlic and herb seasoning, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper. Cook, stirring, until evenly coated, about 1 minute.

Step 3 - Pour in 6 cups broth; bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to maintain a gentle simmer. Cover and cook, undisturbed, until the potatoes are fork-tender, about 10 minutes. Using the back of a spoon, mash some of the potatoes against the side of the pot until the soup thickens to your desired consistency. Remove from heat.

### Loaded Cabbage Soup [con't] from Kathy Nowak

Add 1/2 cup cream; stir until combined.  
Step 4 - Divide the soup evenly among 8 bowls. Top each serving with 2 tablespoons shredded Cheddar, 1 tablespoon cooked bacon, 1-1/2 teaspoons sour cream and 1-1/2 teaspoons chopped chives

#### To Make Ahead

After completing Steps 1 through 3 you may refrigerate in an airtight container for up to 4 days. When preparing to serve re-heat soup and finish with Step 4.

#### Nutrition Facts per Serving

Serving Size: 1-1/2 cups  
Calories: 249  
Sodium: 391mg  
Total Carbohydrates: 22g  
Dietary Fiber: 4g

#### A Recipe for a Happy Day

- \* 1 cup Gratitude: Start the morning by appreciating what you have.
- \* 2 cups Movement: Go for a walk or do some simple exercises.
- \* A dash of Connection: Smile at a stranger or call a friend.
- \* Generous splash of Laughter: Find something that makes you giggle.

Serve warm with Self-Belief.

"One person can make a difference, and everyone should try."

~ John F. Kennedy

**President's Day (US), 2/18**



## Personal Notes And Holiday Wishes

Paul still in rehab. He is cognizant and recognizes people but short-term memory is poor. Long term is great. Can feed himself but still not able to walk with a walker. Been a long two months. I go to see him every day, for three hours or so, and go at different times so I can tell how he's doing. They keep him clean and have learned how to deal with him!! Staff is great. Food not so much! Happy Thanksgiving Prayers appreciated.

Cheryl Muthig

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Hoping everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas.

Ann Sprinkle

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For those who have asked - I am doing much better since my hospital stays this past summer. I feel blessed to have Tim, family, and friends who watch out for me.

Tim and I are sending holiday wishes to all - Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Boxing Day, Happy Kwanzaa, and a blessed New Year!

However you celebrate, celebrate with love and kindness.

Tim and Kathy Nowak



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**PLEASE REMEMBER  
THE DEADLINE FOR THE  
NEXT NEWSLETTER IS:**

**\*\* 2/3/2026 \*\***

Address:

Kathy Nowak  
56979 Raider Drive  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
[internationalcampclub@gmail.com](mailto:internationalcampclub@gmail.com)

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## New Members



**Always looking!**

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## Forms in this Newsletter

Membership Dues 2026

Patt and Virginia Patterson  
Scholarship

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## Average Cost of Living - 1980

New House.....	\$69,000.00
Barbie's Dream House.....	\$100.00
New Chrysler Cordoba.....	\$6,745.00
A Gallon of <i>Leaded</i> Gasoline.....	\$1.20
A Pack of Cigarettes.....	\$1.00
A McDonald's McChicken Sandwich.....	80¢
State-of-the-Art VHS Machine.....	\$699.00
A Commodore VIC-20 Computer.....	\$299.95

[Maximum 5 KB of Memory and No Monitor!]

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## *Answers to Christmas Quiz on Page 10*

1. B - 25,000
2. C - A pink bunny suit
3. B - Wings
4. A - Syrup
5. C - Home Alone
6. A - Stink, stank, stunk
7. C - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.

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***This is your newsletter about your club!  
If you have news, recipes, stories;  
let us know!***

[internationalcampclub@gmail.com](mailto:internationalcampclub@gmail.com)

