

# THE NAARVA



# VOICE

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 3

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SUMMER 2026

## From The President's Desk...

### **Looking Ahead to 2027: National Elections and Rally Registration**

Greetings NAARVA Members,

As we continue to enjoy the fellowship, friendships, and adventures that make NAARVA such a special organization, it is time to begin looking ahead to several important events that will shape our future.



#### National Officer Elections

Elections for NAARVA National Executive Board Officers for the 2027-2029 term will be conducted electronically prior to the 2027 National Rally. Additional information regarding nominations, candidates, voting procedures, and election timelines will be provided as those details become available.

Member participation is vital to the success and future direction of our organization, and we encourage every eligible member to take part in the election process.

NAARVA National Camp Rally



#### 2027 National Rally Announcement

Mark your calendars now! The 2027 NAARVA National Rally will be held in beautiful Orange Beach, Alabama, from August 8-15, 2027.

The rally registration fee will be \$375 per RV for the full week, Sunday through Sunday. Orange Beach offers beautiful coastal scenery, outstanding attractions, and the perfect setting for NAARVA members from across the country to gather, reconnect, and create lasting memories.



*Rodney Thompson*

NAARVA National President

pected to be released before the end of this year. Once registration opens, we encourage members to reserve their space as soon as possible.

NAARVA has secured 200 RV sites for this rally. Based on the excitement already surrounding this event, we anticipate these sites will fill quickly. Early registration will be the best way to ensure you don't miss out on what promises to be an outstanding week of fellowship, fun, and NAARVA traditions.

Watch future newsletters, the NAARVA website, and official communications for updates and registration information.

We look forward to seeing you in **Orange Beach, Alabama, in August 2027!**



#### Exciting Raffles and Prizes

As part of the rally experience, we will be raffling off a variety of wonderful prizes. More information regarding raffle opportunities and prize announcements will be shared as we get closer to the event.



#### Don't Wait to Register

The official registration package is ex-

# NAARVA Executive Board 2025 - 2027



**RODNEY THOMPSON**  
President



**BRIAN K. SKIPPER**  
1st Vice President



**IRIS RAINES**  
2nd Vice President



**ELAINE STANDIFER**  
General Secretary



**JANICE CAMPBELL**  
Asst. Gen. Secretary



**JAMES CAMPBELL**  
Financial Secretary



**ALBERTA WILLIAMS**  
Asst. Fin. Secretary



**SARAH RUNNELS**  
Treasurer



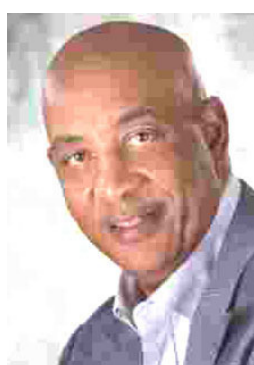
**ANDREA JOHNSON**  
"AJ" HARVEY  
Assistant Treasurer



**MICHAEL TERRELL**  
Director, Eastern Region



**VENSON H. MILLER, SR.**  
Director, Southern Region



**CHUCK BYRD**  
Director Central Region



**RICK LEWIS**  
Director, Western Region

## Appointed Positions

**Rev. Garland Scott**  
*National Chaplain*

**Connie Malone**  
*Parliamentarian*

**Jean Hampton** - *Ecologist*

**Ronald (Ron) Standifer** -  
*Historian*

**Mila Turner**  
*Public Relations Coordinator*

**Iris Raines**  
*Constitution &  
By-Laws Chair*

**Joellen Davis**  
*National Scholarship Chair*

**Iris Raines**  
*Benevolent Coordinator*

**Connie Malone**  
*Grievances*

**Lonnie Fyles**  
*Nominations/Elections*

**James H. Gregory, Jr.**  
*NAARVA Voice Editor  
(Newsletter)*

Working closely with the Executive Board, Appointees will perform duties that complete many functions.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

The NAARVA President is responsible for appointing volunteers for various committees, and you may be called upon, please think about serving when it's your time to serve.

## Letter from the Editor. . .

**Hey Ya!** Indeed.... After seemingly winding up slow we have jumped hard and fast into the core of this camping season. As I write the Southern, Eastern, and Western Regional Rallies have passed, the Central Region Rally is winding down, and the Elkhart Jazz Fest approaches.

**TALK ABOUT A WHIRLWIND!** All I can say is “Let’s Ride the Wind!” Individual clubs and chapter activities are now lined up (see this quarter’s installment of “*Looking Ahead*”, and the winter-imposed recluses of us are “ready to go”. Stay tuned, there will be much to report and share with you in the coming months on the various adventures in which the NAARVA membership has launched and experienced.

In this edition of the *VOICE*, our President brings our attention to upcoming events, we highlight changes in our Executive Board, Education provides us with NAARVA Scholarship Updates, Reverend Scott reminds us even though we have our unique personalities, it is our fellowship that unites us. We celebrate with our regions their milestones, and various passing of the baton, and Ms. Hampton again brings our focus to the continuing challenges that we must address, face, and conquer as the stewards of our world.

*As always Thank You all for your participation!* James



### ***Partner with NAARVA: Reach a Thriving RV Community!***

NAARVA is the largest network of African American RVers and our National Camp Rally is the perfect place to showcase your brand. Sponsorship opportunities offer direct access to an engaged audience of travelers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Brand exposure at national and regional events as well as online.

Direct engagement with our members.

Marketing across NAARVA’s platforms.

**Sponsorship levels available for all budgets!**

**Learn more:**

[2026 Sponsorship Campaigns](#)

**Become a Sponsor:**

[Sponsorship](#)

[Commitment](#)

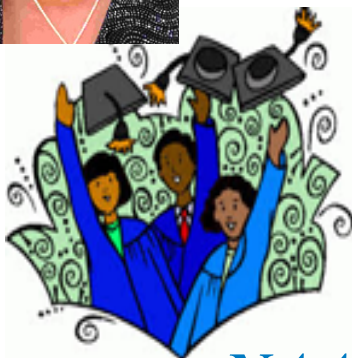
**Contact:**

[mila.turner@naarva.com](mailto:mila.turner@naarva.com)

## 2026 NAARVA SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT



**Joellen Davis**  
NAARVA  
Scholarship  
Committee  
Chairperson



I have had the pleasure of being the Scholarship Chairperson for the 2025-2026 NAARVA Scholarship Program. I would also like to recognize the other Committee members who served with me which includes: Jim Rose - Western Region; Lola Porter - Eastern Region; Saundra Powell - Central Region; Lynda Daniel - Southern Region; Joellen Davis - Central Region.

This year, we had SIX applicants for the Carolyn J. Buford Scholarships. I would like to thank ALL of the students for applying for these Scholarship opportunities and NAARVA wishes them all a successful journey in their educational endeavors.

NAARVA is proud to announce the four recipients of the \$1,000.00 Scholarship. They are: Karis Dix, Ronald (Arjai) Williams, Michelle Watkins, and Trijae Bilbo. The one recipient of the \$500.00 Scholarship is Tyler Winns.

NAARVA congratulates each recipient and wishes them continued success. Their biographies and pictures will be included in the Fall Edition of the NAARVA VOICE. Thank you NAARVA members for your ongoing support, which allows NAARVA to continue the financial support to these deserving students. I want to especially thank the parents and grandparents of these recipients for supporting NAARVA. We could NOT award Scholarships without your continued membership in NAARVA.

Thank you, *Joella Davis*. NAARVA Scholarship Chair

## ~ NAARVA Scholarship Updates ~

I recently received the following information from Herbert and Lois Ducksworth of the *Akron Adventurers Camping Club* in the Central Region, and from Sharon Cleaver from Kansas City, Missouri, whose father was a former NAARVA member of the *Gulf Coast Ravens* and then a Member-At-Large in the Southern Region. Therefore, I wanted to share this great news with the NAARVA membership.

support as I have obtained my Master's Degree in Athletic Training. Your generosity has helped me continue my education and achieve this important milestone. I sincerely appreciate your investment in my future.

"We want to *Thank You NAARVA*, for pouring into our Grandson's education." Herbert and Lois Ducksworth (from the Central Region).

*Congratulations, Bobby on earning your Master's Degree in Athletic Training! NAARVA is proud of you and your accomplishments. Keep reaching for the stars! ~ Joellen Davis, NAARVA Scholarship Chair*

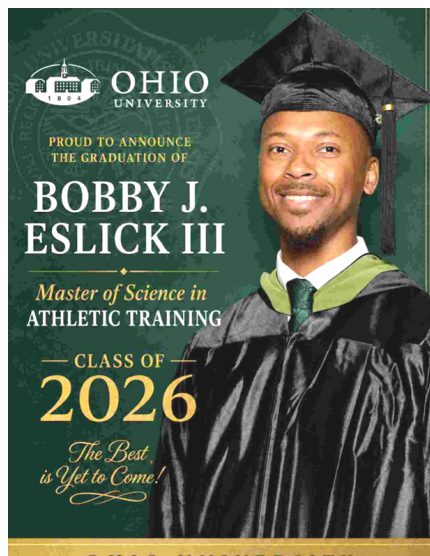
I attended Drake University, where I earned a Bachelor's degree in International Business and Marketing with a minor in French in 2023. Like many students,



my college journey was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The second semester of my freshman year and much of my sophomore year were affected by remote learning. I was able to return to campus in the fall of my junior year and fully engage in the college experience once again.

One of the highlights of my time at Drake was studying abroad in Paris during the second semester of my junior year. The experience allowed me to strengthen my French language skills, immerse myself in another culture, and

*(See Scholarships, page5)*



### **BOBBY J. ESLICK III**

Thank you so much for awarding me a scholarship. I am truly grateful for your

## Scholarship Recipients...

(Continued from page 4)

gain a broader global perspective that has been invaluable, both personally and professionally.

Today, I live in Washington, D.C., and work as a Marketing & Business Development Assistant at Hogan Lovells.

I am thankful for the opportunities I have had since graduating and appreciate the role that the NAARVA Scholarship played in helping me achieve my goals.

### ALAYNA CLEAVER



My name is Alayna Cleaver, and I was honored to receive a NAARVA Scholarship in 2023.

The scholarship has provided valuable support as I work toward my academic, professional, and personal goals.

I am currently entering my senior year at Stanford University, where I am pursuing a degree in Product Design. My studies focus on how thoughtful, human-centered design can improve experiences and address real-world challenges. I am on track to graduate in June 2027 and plan to continue my education in graduate school.

Beyond the classroom, I serve as the Creative Director of MINT, Stanford's only student-run fashion and culture magazine. I have also been an active member of Stanford's Black Student Union, serving on the Community Service Committee, where I have helped lead initiatives aimed at supporting marginalized communities, including organizing efforts to provide meals for unhoused individuals.

My time at Stanford has also provided opportunities to gain valuable global experiences. During the summer of 2025, I became the first American intern at a public relations and event planning agency on the island of Mauritius, an experience that allowed me to develop professional skills while working in an international environment. The following fall, I studied abroad in Paris, where I immersed myself in French culture and broadened my perspective on design and creativity.

As I look ahead to my final year at Stanford and future graduate studies, I am thankful for the NAARVA scholarship and the important role the scholarship has played in my educational journey.

*Congratulations, Bobby, Isaac, and Alayna. NAARVA is proud of ALL of you and your accomplishments. Keep reaching for the stars!*

**Joellen Davis**

**NAARVA Scholarship Chairperson**

**NAARVA Partnerships**

LOG INTO THE NAARVA MEMBERSHIP PORTAL FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO REDEEM OUR EXCLUSIVE PERKS!

- CR HOSPITALITY** 10% OFF RESORT BOOKINGS
- DISCOUNT AMERICA'S TIRE** 10% OFF + FREE TIRE SERVICES
- COOL WATER** 10% OFF ALL CAMPGROUNDS
- JET HOSPITALITY** FREE RV NIGHT OR 20% OFF STAY
- BigRig Savings** DISCOUNTS ON RV ITEMS & REPAIR/MAINTENANCE
- TRAVELERS EXPRESS** 10%+ OFF ALL CAMPGROUNDS
- Passport America** 6 MONTHS FREE MEMBERSHIP
- KLEEN TANK** \$50 OFF RV TANK CLEANING

### Easy Way to Pay NAARVA Dues!

Paypal provides an easy way to pay your dues and Charter Renewals.

Check it out at [naarva.com](http://naarva.com)

If you want to share news from your Club, or have something to say about RV'ing, E-mail your information to your Regional Director. **The deadline for the VOICE content submissions for Fall 2026 issue is September 10, 2026. Text content is requested in MS WORD compatible format, images should be either pdf or jpg. Hyperlinks cannot be used.**

NAARVA members may access *The Voice* through the NAARVA website: [www.naarva.com](http://www.naarva.com).

If you do not have an E-mail account or access to a computer, call **704-333-3070**, and a hard copy will be mailed to you. *The Voice* is published four times yearly by NAARVA.

Voice Editor: James Gregory [imscholar2@cs.com](mailto:imscholar2@cs.com).

As an ongoing practice all attempts will be made to post the next NAARVA VOICE edition in the first week of the month following the submission deadline month. The Fall NAARVA VOICE will be posted during the first week of October 2026.

## Unity is not Uniformity



**REV.  
GARLAND  
SCOTT  
NAARVA  
Chaplain**

Our focus today is on the remarkable truth of diversity found within the original group of men chosen by Jesus to follow him: His twelve disciples. Far from being a homogeneous group, they were a vibrant, sometimes clashing, collection of individuals, demonstrating Jesus' intentional desire to build His Kingdom from a beautiful tapestry of different personalities and backgrounds.



Eleven of the twelve disciples represented a broad cross-section of Galilean society and the economy. Judas Iscariot was from the southern region of Judea. This exception is significant because it indicates that Jesus deliberately chose eleven men from the often-despised Northern Province of Galilee and one from the more influential central province of Judea. This further amplified the group's diversity and potential internal tensions.

The Bible tells us that Peter, Andrew, James, and John were professional fishermen (Matthew 4:18-22). Matthew was a tax collector who worked for the Roman occupiers, placing him among the most despised and socially outcast of the Jewish community. His inclusion was a powerful statement that Jesus' call extended even to those considered traitors or sinners (Matthew 9:9-13).

Simon the Zealot was a member of a political faction, fiercely dedicated to violently overthrowing Roman rule. Jesus intentionally placed a revolutionary next to a Roman collaborator (Luke 6:15). Can you imagine the tension between them?

Philip's personality comes across as practical, systematic, and perhaps a bit conventional. He often approached problems in terms of logic and available resources. When Jesus calls him,

**6 — The NAARVA Voice**

Philip immediately follows and brings with him Bartholomew, and said, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph, (John 1:45).

Bartholomew, Nathanael, displays a streak of regional skepticism with a core of genuine honesty and sincerity. Jesus praised him as an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit (John 1:47). He initially questioned if anything good could come out of Nazareth.

Thomas, his Aramaic name, indicates he was a Galilean. His Greek name was Didymus. Both names mean "the Twin." Thomas was known for his skepticism after the resurrection, earning him the moniker, "Doubting Thomas."

James, the son of Alphaeus, was also known as James the lesser to distinguish him from James, the son of Zebedee. Very little is known about him directly from the Gospels, highlighting how Jesus used people with minimal public background.

Thaddeus, "Judas, son of James," is commonly identified as the same person in the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts (Luke 6:16; Acts 1:13). He is traditionally considered a Galilean, often listed alongside the other lesser-known disciples who were primarily from that region. His only direct appearances and spoken words are in the Gospels, which offer the best glimpse into his personality. During the Last Supper, after Jesus promised to reveal Himself to His followers but not to the world, in John 14:22, "Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, *"Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?"*

Wow, this question was profound. His question arises from a misunderstanding of Jesus' previous words about revealing Himself. Judas, I meant Thaddeus, is surprised by the idea of a manifestation that is limited to the disciples and not a grand public display for the whole world.

The question reveals a common misunderstanding among the disciples, who were still focused on a physical, earthly kingdom for the Messiah. They were seeking a visible sign of power, which, in their view, should be for everyone. Jesus answer in the following verses clarifies that His manifestation is not a public event but an intimate, spiritual one. It is for those who love Him and obey His word, for those who have established a relationship with Him and the Father.

This manifestation is not about a physical appearance for the world to see, but about a spiritual presence of God the Holy Spirit within Believers who have a loving and obedient relationship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. I cannot overemphasize the importance of having a righteous relationship with the Godhead.

All together, these twelve men formed a microcosm of first-century Israel: the educated and the unlearned, the rich and the poor, the established and the revolutionary, were all brought together by the call of Jesus Christ.



**Microcosm**

Jesus was the master builder. We can see He did not choose twelve identical, perfectly finished stones. He  
*(Continued on page 7)*

## Chaplain's Corner...

(Continued from page 6)

chose twelve different pieces of a puzzle, men who were dramatically diverse in profession, politics, and personality. This diversity wasn't an accident; it was a model for the Kingdom of God.

The initial call shows Jesus was willing to cross every social and political line to build His Church. The miracle wasn't that Jesus gathered diverse men; the miracle was that He united them.

The principle is simple: Unity is not uniformity. We are not called to become clones of one another, but to be pieces of the same body, dependent on one another. We have common ground, not shared politics, education, or financial status, but love. Jesus commanded in John 13:34-35: *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. By this, all people will know that you are my disciples."* When the Zealot and the Tax Collector loved one another, the world saw something supernatural.

Their shared life and their differences were harnessed by one overriding command: The Great Commission, Matthew 28:19, *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."*

We live in a world that loves the idea of following Jesus. But let's be honest: discipleship is often confused with mere membership. Many treat faith like a society club they've joined or a political party they've registered with. The call to discipleship is not a society club or a political party. Jesus made it very clear to those who wanted to follow after Him: Luke 9:23, *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*

## Faith & Fellowship

Even though we all have our own unique personalities, there is one common trait we must do to be united in fellowship: deny ourselves. This isn't giv-

ing up chocolate; it's about dethroning the "self" as the absolute authority in your life. A true disciple shifts their allegiance from "My will be done" to "Thy will be done."

To take up your cross daily is an instrument of execution; it is not a form of decoration or a costume to be displayed. To carry it meant you accepted a daily death to your desires, pride, and comfort. True discipleship requires sacrifice and submission. It means prioritizing Jesus' agenda over your own ambition.

I tell you, if you are not regularly inconvenienced by your faith, you might not be following Christ closely. Jesus requires a commitment that places Him above everything else in your life. He demands a radical reordering of priorities that can seem impossible by the world's standards.

The twelve disciples who Jesus called immediately stopped all they were doing and followed Him, without hesitation. Jesus wants loyalty that surpasses even the deepest human bonds. He wasn't telling us to hate our families, but to ensure that our love for Him is the highest commitment, making all other loves appear secondary. A true disciple loves Jesus first, and that love then empowers them to love their family better.

I pray that you understand what I'm speaking about concerning loyalty towards Jesus. We have a way of pushing Jesus aside when our friends, family members, or coworkers place us in a compromising situation, forcing us to choose between the world's way and God's way. This is called the "Universal Battle of Wills."

Each of us faces a choice every single day: Whose will shall I follow? The World's voice is loud, persuasive, and constantly calling us to conform to its will rather than God's.

When your loved ones' will overpowers your will, and you start to compromise your position in Christ, remember Romans 12:2, *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and*

**THE WILL OF GOD  
WILL NEVER TAKE  
YOU WHERE THE  
GRACE OF GOD  
CANNOT SUSTAIN  
YOU**

*perfect, will of God."*

Stop agreeing with your loved ones when you know they are wrong according to the Word of God. The world offers a path of least resistance; God offers a path of righteousness. We must confront this great divide and commit to following Christ. Choosing to follow Christ means not fitting in with the world; it requires a holy courage. Courage given to you by God's Word, Luke 10:19. God's Word is uncompromising.

Your choice today is not just about a single action; it is about establishing a pattern of life. Will you build your life on the shifting sands of the world's way, or the rock of God's will?

When you are in the world, and the world places you in a compromising position, remember the ending of the Lord's Prayer, It's not let my will be done, but *"Your will be done."* When the world is pressuring you to take its side, the only choice for a Christian is to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Christ's good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

Praise God, Praise God, Praise God!

**In Jesus' name  
Amen**

**Join Our NAARVA  
Group**



# IN THE KNOW



The 2026 Eastern Region Camping Rally truly delivered the perfect blend of fun and purpose- a time was had and business was handled!

On the business side, attendees made the most of every opportunity to learn and connect. Members laced up their sneakers for daily health walks, soaked up helpful information at seminars hosted by Kleen Tanks and MASA Medical Transport, and came together for a heartfelt worship service. Board members and Club presidents and designated club representatives met for a dedicated leadership meeting, and the energy carried right into the General Assembly, where the exciting business of electing new officers took center stage.

On the fun side of things, members showed out when the music started with line dancing- new ones and old faithfuls like the Electric Slide. Karaoke showed us just how much talent is in the region and more than a few members worked the crowd with their lip syncing performances. Friendly competition was in full swing with card bingo, a cake walk, and a fun game of bean bag baseball.

Simply put — good people, good times, and great memories made at the 2026 Eastern Region Camping Rally! 🏕️🌲

Highlights of our participation:

**100%**

Voting participation for Officer Elections

**8**

Clubs represented

**170**

Attendees

**83**

Coaches

- DC CONNECTION RV CLUB
- LEISURE TRAVELERS CAMPING CLUB
- MEMBERS AT LARGE
- NEW HORIZON RV CLUB
- NEW YORK RAVENS RV CLUB
- THE INNOVATORS RV CLUB
- THE ROYAL CAMPERS
- THE TRIANGLE RVER'S
- VIRGINIA CAMPING CARDINALS

<https://naarvaeast.com/>

## WESTERN REGION

Hello NAARVA!

The Western Region just completed our 2026 rally in Coos Bay, Oregon at the Ko-Kwel RV Resort and Casino. What a wonderful time we had.

Our new executive board was installed at our Camp Rally meeting with Rick Lewis as our Western Region Director. Rick did a wonderful job as the Western Region event coordinator and is ready to hit the ground running, starting with our next regional rally in 2028. Rick is already scouting sites and planning activities.

Our meet and greet was filled with laughter and games lead by Keith Saffo, Marc Saunders and Aaron Burgess. Even the cold weather couldn't stop members from dancing to the music with our Del Robin at the block party. Lots of prizes were given at the closing ceremony topped off by our 50/25/25. Winners were handed over \$300 each. They were thrilled.

Although this completes my term as your director, it has been my honor to serve as the Western Region Director and I know I am leaving the Western Region in excellent hands.

**Liz Hemingway,**  
Always NAARVA

**Rick Lewis**  
Director  
Western  
Region



## EASTERN REGION

**MICHAEL TERRELL**  
Director, Eastern  
Region



**LEARN  
MORE**

There is more to share about the Eastern Region's latest Rally and plans moving forward. Go to: <https://heyzine.com/flip-ook/de3cfbe4bb.html#page/1> to read the full 2026 Eastern Region Camplng Rally!



Please e-mail **NOTICES OF MEMBER DEATHS** to [benevolence@naarva.com](mailto:benevolence@naarva.com).

Please include the following in your e-mail:

- Deceased Members's Full Name
- NAARVA Number (if known)
- Region and Club Name
- Date of Death (Month, Day, Year)



Iris Raines, NAARVA 2nd Vice President, is the Benevolent Coordinator.

## SOUTHERN REGION

VENSON H. MILLER, SR.  
Director, Southern Region



### *Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Merrimac Sams Camping Club*

In 1976, a group of Atlanta area friends who enjoyed the camping experience decided to organized a club which they proudly named Merrimac Sams. It's now 2026, that's ½ a century, 5 decades, 600 months and 2,609 weeks later, and we are celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Please join us **September 11-13, 2026** at **Savannah Lakes RV Resort**, to fellowship and have fun as we honorably celebrate **"50 Years of Miles and Memories."** Visit our website, <https://www.merrimacsamsrv.com> for anniversary and registration information.





# NAARVA ECOLOGY PROGRAM

## “Loving Our Earth - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Respect”

### NAARVA Committed to the Resolve of Plastic Pollution

Jean Hampton, Ph.D., NAARVA Ecologist

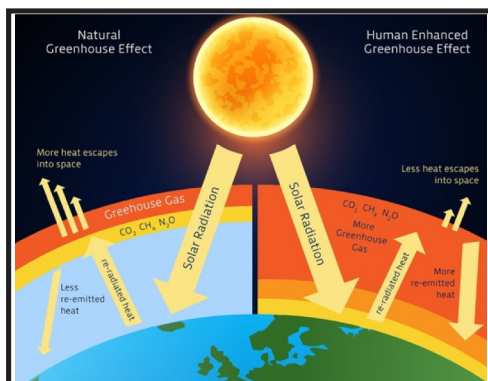
The challenge remains ladies and gentlemen. We are battling for global sustainment...for survival of our livinely anointed planet, Mother Earth. Our children, our children’s children, and our great-grandchildren are awarded the Earth that we leave them. They inherit the consequences of our acts of regard for ruin upon the one home that we all share. With divinely appointed authority, we are set to shoulder dominion over our Earth and bear responsibility for Earth’s ambiance and ecosystems for earthly creatures that symbiotically inhabit our planet, as well as for all inanimate components of our earthly atmosphere. Genesis 1:27-28.

“The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.” (Psalm 24:1)

This is a strongly respected scriptural verse that many of us are decisively familiar with. It offers the defining statement on the exclusive proprietorship of the planet on which we humans, countless other and untold lifeforms, and inestimable lifeless (inorganic) objects, exist. The verse points back to our responsibilities to replenish, and subdue (but not destroy) the earth, to be stewards of the earth... serving as keepers for the ultimate title-holder, God.

We are all aware of the current climatic challenges that we now face. We are in trouble. Per adoption of the 2015 Paris Agreement, nearly all of the United Nations’ member countries agreed to pursue limiting global warming to not more than 1.5° C above pre-industrial (1850-1900) levels. Beyond 1.5° C, risks of extreme heatwaves, droughts, floods, wildfires, rising sea levels, food insecurity, and biodiversity loss become much greater. The world is NOT on track in this regard. The years 2015-2025 have been the hottest eleven years on record. The earth

is now about 1.44°C warmer than it was in the pre-industrial era. The year 2024 was the warmest year in the 175-year observational record, with a mean global near-surface temperature of 1.55°C above the pre-industrial level average. Breaches of 1.5°C for a month, or a year, are early signs of getting perilously close to exceeding the long-term limit, and serves as a call for accelerating action in this critical decade. Addressing climate change requires major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxides (NO<sub>2</sub>), ozone, and fluorinated-gases. These gases trap solar radiation, and like a blanket on the earth retain radiated heat, making atmospheric temperatures hotter. Warmer atmospheric temperatures lead to warmer oceanic temperatures. (The US has historically been the greatest producer of GHGs.)



GHGs trap solar re-radiation. Atmospheric temperatures become warmer. To avert the worst impacts of climate change and preserve a livable planet, global warming must be limited as much as possible **GHGs productopm ,ist be rediced/**

Is there hope?"We thank God, that there is always hope. There is, however, “regrettable” news. Keeping in mind that this unfavorable news is essential

to our being adequately informed, so that we remain mindful of both personal and civic duty to protect our environment.

“Regrettably”, we are fast approaching certain “tipping points” pertinent to our environmental/ecological status. Once the cup tips over, there will be “spill residue” which, in this case, are considerably adverse, and likely irreversible transformations, each detrimental to sustainability. The fabric of our now supportive environment will change for the worst. From these unfavorable environmental reports, it may seem that here is nothing that can forestall an oncoming global environmental disaster. As success is the only option, we remain hopeful by employing the divine fortitude that we are gifted. We pursue:

- Transitioning to renewable energy sources.
- Improving energy efficiency.
- Protecting forests and natural ecosystems.
- Reducing pollution and waste/ Developing “Circular Economies”
- Investing in sustainable technologies.

These measures will create and support opportunity for clean air, better public health, green jobs, sustainable ecosystems, and economic growth.

Science reports that we likely have reached at least one of the more prominently broadcasted “tipping points” that adversely impact the environmental/ecological status of our planet. So, exactly what is a “tipping point”? A tipping point is a critical maximum, a definitive limit at which a complex system, such as our Earth’s climate, reaches an unmistakable shift in course and progress that, in our case, disturbs the status quo of what were previously customarily supported. (Continued on page 12)



## Ecology... (Continued from page 11)

ive environmental and ecological episodes. This shift results from the damaging impact of sequentially occurring events within the system such as GHGs causing a warmer atmosphere, which result in successive episodes of damage such as glacial melting, and which continue on to domino-like destructive processes such as rising sea levels and flooding.

The more observable and worrisome tipping points are these five self-accelerating declines: (1) the deaths of coral reefs from rising oceanic temperature and acidity (countless varieties of marine life are dependent on these reefs); (2) the melting of glaciers/ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica which will raise coastal sea levels, damaging bay and coastal waters and properties; (3) the melting of Arctic permafrost which will release huge amounts of GHGs (CO<sub>2</sub> and the poisonous methane) into the atmosphere; (4) collapse of our natural ocean circulations which will disrupt weather patterns and disturb pertinent marine life migrations and food availability; and (5) deforestation of (particularly the Amazon) rainforests which results in forest dieback and loss of a primary carbon sink (trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub>). Each of these tipping points result in/or contribute to unfavorable (and presently occurring) climatic changes. All are associated with atmospheric and oceanic contamination, and all interrupt naturally supportive ecosystems... land, air, and marine.

Unfortunately, **tropical coral reefs may have already crossed a tipping point.** Half of our planet's reefs have already disappeared, and studies suggest that they may all likely be dead by mid-century at the current rate of loss. Marine ecosystems that are heavily dependent on the reefs as nurseries and feeding grounds, will suffer severe loss. Corals, which are animals related to jellyfish and sea anemones, cover less than 1% of the ocean, but support over 25% of all marine life including one million aquatic species, and over 4,000 species of fish; *this is the highest biodiversity of any ecosystem on the planet.* Healthy coral reefs provide habitat, feeding, spawning and nursery grounds, and food for people living near coral reefs. The reefs create billions of dollars from tourism in local economies, protect coastal life from storms and weather damage, and are sources of new medicines to treat diseases and other health issues. The latest science from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) shows that, even if the average global temperature rise is limited to 1.5°C (as per the 2015 Paris agreement), 70-90% of tropical coral reefs could be gone by 2050, thermocean acidification. Corals are fragile and sensitive to environmental change such as increased aquatic temperatures. Anthropogenic (human caused) activities are major threats to coral reefs. Overfishing, destructive fishing practices using dynamite or cyanide, collecting live corals for the aquarium market, and mining coral for building materials, are some of the many ways that people damage reefs all around the world every day. One of the

most significant threats to reefs is pollution from land-based runoff and pollutant discharges from dredging, coastal development, agricultural and deforestation activities, and sewage treatment plant operations. Oil pollution can disrupt the reproductive success of corals. Increased greenhouse gases from deforestation and the burning of fossil fuels for heat and energy, cause ocean temperatures to rise, change storm patterns, and contribute to sea level rise and oceanic acidification leading to coral bleaching (turning white as they lose colorful algae) and structural damage.

Melted glacial ice water goes into the ocean; today about 25% of sea level rising is caused by glacial melting.

Across much of the world, sea levels are higher than previously assumed and land is sinking faster. Flooding is already become 10 times more likely in Baltimore and Honolulu and five times more likely in Philadelphia, Norfolk, VA, and Charleston, SC, since 1930. That's in large part because since the start of the 20th century, sea levels have risen by about 8 inches globally due to GHG emissions that have caused oceans to warm and land ice to melt, swelling the seas. The seas swell because water expands as it warms. The world's oceans absorb about 90% of excess heat traded in the Earth's atmosphere. The expanding water volume raises sea levels. The rapid melting of mountain glaciers and the massive ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica account for a significant  
(Continued on page 13)



Plastic debris can quickly become entangled on a coral and smother it. Trawlers catch fish by dragging nets along the ocean bottom. Reefs in the net's path are mowed down.

## Ecology... (Continued from page 12))



A strip of meltwater atop the Greenland ice sheet. Rising sea level. Note 1993



Advancing seawater kills cypress trees, Venice, La. Marshlands



Capers Island, South Carolina

cant portion of the increase. Rising seas threaten to displace coastal populations, contaminate freshwater resources, and worsen high tides and nuisance flooding. Loss of beaches and property, coastal erosion and salt water intrusion are hazards of rising sea levels.

As sea level rises, more and more saltwater encroaches on the land. Along the world's coasts and estuaries, invading seawater advances and overtakes the fresh water that deciduous trees rely upon for sustenance. The salty water slowly poisons living trees, leaving a haunted ghost forest of dead and dying timber. In 2018, Jonathan O'Donnell, a national parks ecologist, arrived to collect fish and biological samples from the Akillik River in Alaska's Kobuk Valley National Park. He and his colleagues noticed how the river had turned orange compared to the clear water they had seen the previous year. When ecologist Patrick Sullivan went into the Salmon River in Alaska to conduct a vegetation study in the summer of 2019, he was excited about paddling down the pristine Arctic River. Sullivan was not prepared for the river that eventually came to view.

As far as the eye could see, the water flowed bright orange. Research would later reveal that it as too toxic for fish, most other forms of aquatic life, and shoreline vegetation to survive. Like carbon trapped in permafrost, minerals and metals in permafrost remain inert so long as they are not exposed to weathering... whether from water, oxygen, or bacterial activity. Once the permafrost thaws, oxygen seeps in and groundwater begins flowing in different directions. Dormant bacteria wake up and begin to oxidize the minerals, transforming them into dissolved iron and sulfate, which in turn produces sulfuric acid. The acidified water often takes on the orange color that leaches out of iron.

"It was a shock," Sullivan recalls. Climate change has thawed permafrost and increased rainfall in the Far North, producing sulfuric acid that is turning rivers and lakes yellow or rusty orange. Scientists are scrambling to parse the impacts on wildlife, fish, and the drinking water of Indigenous communities.

Scientists do know that the chemistry behind this rusting is inextricably

linked to the climate-induced thawing of permafrost, an increase in rainfall that is also triggered by the warming climate, and the resulting landslides and ground slumping set in motion by those impacts. Since at least 2019, the rusting and other similar river discolorations have spread to more than 200 rivers in Alaska, a growing number of rivers the Yukon and Northwest Territories, and as far north as the Arctic Archipelago. The pH levels in some rivers have dropped to 2.3..., comparable to the acidity of vinegar.

As Earth's temperature warms, the permafrost is thawing. That means the ice inside the permafrost melts, leaving behind water and soil. Thawing permafrost can have dramatic impacts on our planet and the things living on it. For example: Many northern villages are built on permafrost. When permafrost is frozen, it's harder than concrete. However, thawing permafrost can destroy houses, roads, and other infrastructure as the ground shifts. When permafrost is frozen, plant material in the soil can't decompose or rot away. As permafrost thaws, microbes begin

*(Continued on page 14)*



## Ecology... (Continued from page 13)

decomposing this material. This process releases greenhouse gases like iron dioxide and methane to the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases warm the planet, which can then thaw more permafrost. When permafrost thaws, so do ancient bacteria and viruses in the ice and soil. These newly-unfrozen microbes could make, and have made, humans and animals sick if exposed to them. Scientists have discovered microbes more than 400,000 years old in thawed permafrost. Permafrost thaw

is of the gravest, yet lesser discussed impacts, of climate change. Permafrost covers 24 percent of the surface of land masses in the northern hemisphere and accounts for nearly half of all organic carbon stored within the planet's soil. As long as this organic matter remains frozen, it will stay trapped in the permafrost. However, if it thaws, microbes will begin to eat the material, causing it to decay and releasing carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere. Even if a small fraction of these greenhouse gases are released, it will have major consequences on not only the Arctic, but on Earth's entire climate system as they intensify global climate change.

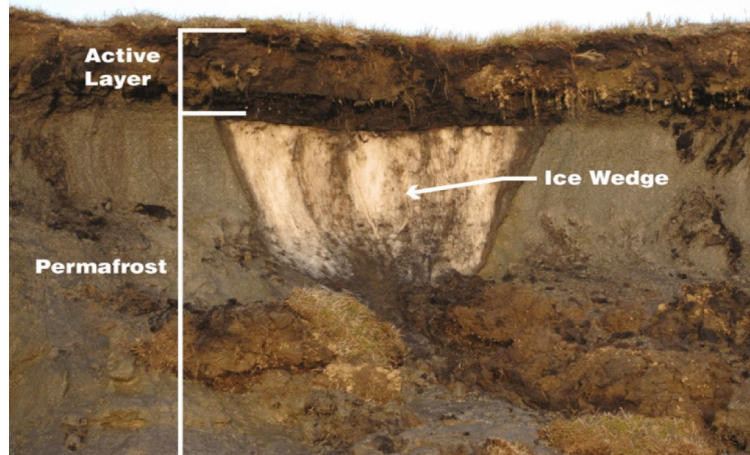
**Permafrost** is any ground that remains completely frozen — 32°F (0°C) or colder — for at least two years straight. These permanently frozen grounds are most common in cold regions. These include high mountains and in Earth's higher latitudes — near the

North and South poles. Permafrost covers large regions of Earth. Around 15% of the land area in the Northern Hemisphere has permafrost. Although the ground is frozen, permafrost regions can be snow-free in summer.

Recent studies reveal our warming world is triggering shifts in winds and ocean currents, which is likely contributing to an increase in harmful carbon pollution. The AMOC (Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation) is a system of ocean currents that circulates water within the Atlantic Ocean, bringing warm water north and cold water south. As our climate continues to change, we must consider that the AMOC will slow down, or come to a complete stop. Research shows it has weakened over the past century. Whether or not it will continue to slow or stop circulating completely remains uncertain. If the AMOC does continue to slow down, however, it could have far-reaching climate impacts. For example, if the planet continues to warm, freshwater from melting ice at the poles would shift the rain belt in South Africa, causing droughts for millions  
*(Continued on page 15)*



Much of the Alaskan tundra is permafrost. The polygon shapes in the snow are a sign that this permafrost is thawing.



Active layers of permafrost may thaw during warmer seasons., and produce vegetation, but will refreeze in cold seasons



A block of thawing permafrost that fell into the ocean on Alaska's Arctic Coast.



## Ecology... (Continued from page 14)

of people. It would also cause sea level rise across the U.S. East Coast. Recent research suggests that climate change is already weakening our ocean's circulation network. The evidence outlined in these studies is important for us to understand since the ocean's circulation can directly affect the Earth's atmosphere and biosphere. Weakening ocean currents can increase ocean acidification and make it difficult for marine life to survive. Scientists have found new evidence that the Atlantic Ocean's circulation has slowed by about 15 percent since the middle of the last century. If it continues to slow, that could have profound consequences for Earth's inhabitants.

Studies suggest that it would mean much colder winters and hotter summers in Europe, changing rainfall patterns in the tropics, and warmer water building up along the U.S. coast that can fuel sea level rise and destructive storms. The changes in the North Atlantic could also intensify streams of icebergs into shipping lanes, and coastal ice jams that hinder navigation. There are already signs that the weakening is having an effect. In 2015, scientists traced the imminent collapse of the commercially important cod fishing in the region to rapidly warming water in the Gulf of Maine, which fits the pattern of slowing Atlantic circulation. Record-warm water off the East Coast that helped fuel 2011's destructive Hurricane Irene, as well as Superstorm Sandy a year later, appears to fit that pattern according to NASA. Global warming fundamentally alters ocean circulation patterns primarily by disrupting the delicate balance of temperature and salinity that drives deep water currents. As polar ice melts and high-latitude precipitation increases, the influx of fresh water lowers the density of surface waters, preventing them from sinking and slowing down the massive global ocean conveyor belt. An even bigger concern is deforestation.

We cut down over 15 billion trees per year large swaths of trees are cut down to service agricultural or other commercial interest: pastures for cattle and beef production, soy plantations and palm oil plantations. An estimated 50 percent of terrestrial biodiversity is found in rainforests. Rainforests provide important ecological services, including storing hundreds of tons of carbon, buffering against flood and drought, stabilizing soils, influencing rainfall patterns, and providing a home to both wildlife and indigenous people. Rainforests are also the source of many useful products upon which local communities depend. Deforestation and degradation of tropical forests account for roughly 10 percent of global greenhouse emissions from human activities. For the past three years, fires burned more than twice as much tree cover as they did two decades ago. Climate change is threatening forests both inside and outside the tropics, with extreme heat and drought fueling bigger, more damaging forest fires. Forest die-back refers to the widespread decline in vitality and eventual death of trees within a forest ecosystem, often caused by various factors such as drought, insect infestations, disease outbreaks, or air pollution. It can have severe ecological and economic consequences, impacting biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and timber industries. Climate change exacerbates forest die-back, and accelerates forest decline. Forest die-back contributes to atmospheric CO2 levels, further accelerating climate change.

Surely, we are proud of our



Huge swaths of forest are decimated annually.

NAARVA Ecology Program (NEP), and hold the greatest respect for those who came before us to build this environmental platform. "Hots off!" to all whose insightfulness culminated into this learned outgrowth. Many thanks to our wonderfully supportive NAARVA administration in assuring the continuance, proliferation and demonstratively relevant activities of NEP. No one institution, organization, family, nor person can save our world, our finest planetary distinctions, or be expected to prevent disastrous planetary consequences of any sort. But as more of us are attentive, involved, and responsive in taking promising and corrective actions within our capacities, we make it a certain possibility that curative outcomes are created, and realized. We have before us the tools of intellect, innovation, and collaboration to combat progression of adversities that could ultimately negate suitable human subsistence. We will remain "woke" relative to many issues, and certainly to those of planetary survival. Together, we will assure our complicity in resolving environmental and ecological challenges. Each generation owes this to posterity. "Most emphatically, we are divinely commissioned to do so." J.M. Hampton, June 2026.

References: Worldwildlife.org; e360.yale.edu; Yale School of the Environment; oceanservice.noaa.gov; science.nasa.gov; U.S. Geological Survey; CPO.noaa.gov; NBC Bay Area April 2024; United Notions Climate Action; insideclimateneeds.org; thearcticinstitute.org; yahoo!news; unu



# Looking Ahead: July, August, September 2026

Celebrations and Regional Club Events

## July

### National Anti-Boredom Month

#### JULY 2026

Encourages people to try new activities and combat summer boredom. The month promotes creativity and exploration of new interests and hobbies.



#### Central Region Lake Erie Travelers

July 16-19, 2026  
Faith, Family and Fellowship Campout  
Campland RV and Mobile Home Community  
1001 Clubhouse Drive  
Donrgel, PA 15628

#### Central Region Ebony Dream Makers

July 17-19, 2026

Millpoint RV Park  
210 Ash Ln.  
East Peoria, IL 61611



#### Eastern Region DC Connection RV Club

July 17-19, 2026  
RV Resort at Carolina Crossroads  
415 Wallace Fork Rd.  
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870



#### ELKHART JAZZ FEST

July 18-22, 2026  
Elkhart Jazz Festival  
Elkhart, IN 46516

# Looking Ahead: July, August, September 2026

## Celebrations and Regional Club Events

July



**Central Region**  
**Rocky Mountain RV Rollers**

**July 23-28, 2026**  
Rafter J-Bar Campground  
12325 Rafter J-Bar Road  
Hill City, SD 57745

**Western Region**  
**Funseekers/Rain City Travelers RV Club**

**July 23-26, 2026**  
Silver Cove RV Park  
351 Hall Road  
Silver Lake, WA 98645



**Central Region**  
**Minnesota Voyagers RV Club**

**July 24-25, 2026**  
Grand Casino RV Resort  
707 Lady Luck Drive  
Hinkley, MN 55037



**Southern Region**  
**Georgia Elite Fleet RV Club**

**July 24-26, 2026**  
Biloxi Bay RV Resort  
6505 Riviera Drive  
Biloxi, MS 39532

August

### **National Golf Month**

#### **August 2026**

Promotes the sport of golf and encourages people of all ages to take up the game. The month coincides with ideal weather for golfing in many parts of the Northern Hemisphere.



# Looking Ahead: July, August, September 2026

## Celebrations and Regional Club Events

### August

#### Eastern Region New Horizon RV Club

**August 6-9, 2026**

Sunny Days RV Resort  
7528 Old Number Six Hwy.  
Santee, SC 29142



#### Western Region California Cruisers RV Club

**August 12 - 16, 2026**

Launch Pointe Recreation Destination & RV Park  
32040 Riverside Drive  
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

#### Western Region Funseekers/Rain City Travelers RV Club

**August 12 - 16, 2026**

American Sunset RV Resort  
1209 N. Montesano St.  
Westport, WA 98595



#### Central Region Lake Erie Travelers

**August 13 - 16, 2026**  
Pymatuning State Park  
6100 Pymatuning Road  
Andover, OH 44003



#### Central Region Minnesota Voyagers RV Club

**August 14-16, 2026**  
Annual Jamboree  
Pine View Campground  
8053 W. J Street  
Sparta, WI 54656

# Looking Ahead: July, August, September 2026

Celebrations and Regional Club Events

## August



**Central Region**  
**Ebony Dream Makers**

**August 14-16, 2026**

Pine View Campground  
8053 West J. Street  
Fort McCoy, WI 54656

**Eastern Region**  
**DC Connection RV Club**

**August 14-16, 2026**

Candy Hill RV Park  
1656 Ward Avenue  
Winchester, VA 22602



## September



**Labor Day**

**Monday, September 7, 2026**

Federal holiday in the United States honoring the American labor movement. It is celebrated on the first Monday in September and marks the unofficial end of summer.



**Eastern Region**  
**New Horizon RV Club**

**September 10-13, 2026**

Coastal Georgia RV Resort  
287 S. Port Pkwy  
Brunswick, GA



**Eastern Region**  
**DC Connection EV Club**

**September 11-13, 2026**

Richmond North/King Dominion KOA  
10061 King Dominion Blvd.  
Doswell, VA 23047

# Looking Ahead: July, August, September 2026

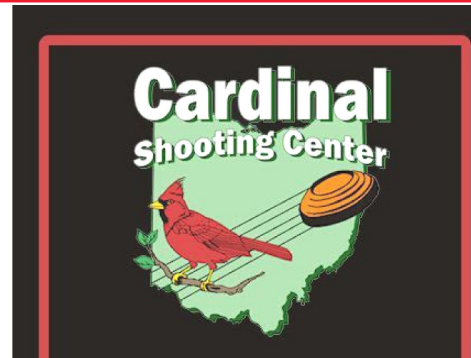
## September

### Celebrations and Regional Club Events

**Central Region**  
**Lake Erie Travelers**

**September 17-20, 2026**

Norman Ellis All Ohio Campout  
Cardinal Shooting Center  
616 State Route 61  
Marengo, OH 43334



**Wind Point Park**  
RV RESORT & CAMPGROUND  
AT LAKE TAWAKONI

**Southern Region**  
**Texas Sojourners**

**September 17-20, 2026**

Chapter Event  
6553 State Park Rd. 55  
Lone Oak, TX 75453



**Western Region**  
**Funseekers/Rain City Travelers**

**September 17-20, 2026**  
Roam America Tillamook  
210 3rd Street  
Garibaldi, OR 97118



**Southern Region**  
**Georgia Elite RV Club**

**September 19-20, 2026**

Paradise Found RV Park  
11551 Dauphine Island Pkwy.  
Theodore, AL 36582

### **National Good Neighbor Day**

**Monday, September 28, 2026**  
Encourages people to be good neighbors  
by making connections with those who live  
in their neighborhood.

