

The Monthly Chatter

November 2023

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2023 End of Season Review

The 2023 camping season has ended. It was packed with good times, feel-good food, and great friends. When you get a camping season this amazing, the only thing that can mess it up is the weather.

Speaking of weather... in April we started the schedule with one of the coldest rounds of golf many of us have ever played. We played at Lakeland in St. Paris, and even though the weather did not cooperate, we still had fun.

Opening Season Weekend went off with a bang. From our now famous Ice Cream Breakfast to Mike Elsner's awesome fireworks display.

We ended May with a busy Memorial Day weekend packed with Dad's chili, a blind quarter auction and some killer karaoke. Directly after Memorial Day weekend we went right into parking for the tractor show.

The tractor show was light on campers and vendors, but the vendors that did come said they did well, and the tractor pulls were very busy.

On June 17th we inserted an Amazing Race into the schedule. Thanks to Angela Albright and her helpers, the race went off without a hitch.

Fourth of July Weekend had its share of good times mixed with some spotty weather. We had to postpone our Redneck Games to another date due to rain that stopped as soon as we canceled, but the 80's karaoke was such a great time, we all forgot about the rain.

We finished July with Grandparent's Weekend and a Merry Christmas in July. Thanks to Diane Lyons and ReMax for hosting movie night on the 4th, and thanks to Grandma Springer for reading The Night Before Christmas and helping the kids do what needed to be done to get Santa here from his vacation.

August brought Fairs and a revived Golf Cart Rodeo. I will admit, once Rick passed the rodeo on to me, I didn't think it would last. Thankfully, our friends from the West (Indiana) were there to help fill in the gaps. Troy and the rest of the Odd Powers Golf Cart Racing Team have been crucial in making the rodeo great again. The night of the rodeo we hosted a game show night. I was Bark Bobber; host of The Price is Close and Friendly Feud. Both games were a blast, and we gave away some extremely mediocre prizes.

September welcomed Labor Day Weekend. Normally, the food events bring in the most people. However, Labor Day Weekend gave us a look at Mike Hemmelgarn, comedian, ventriloquist, juggler, superstar. I honestly haven't seen that many people in the shelter in a long while. Props to my Sister-in-law Amy for finding that guy.

The Fall Tractor Show was a much better showing than in the spring. We were brimming with vendors, even if the campers weren't all there. Next

year the camping will be on the reservation system so once reservations open up, get your site locked in. If you will be fleeing from your campspot, there will be an extra \$40 charge when you get here. I will explain more as you read.

Amy hosted another Human Tractor Pull. This time we had more participants and a much larger crowd. I see this event as being one of the fan favorites in the future.

We ended the 2023 camping season with a spooktacular good time. Even though our Halloween Cruise-in got rained out, our second weekend of trick-or-treat was an unparalleled success. Thanks, and congrats to all who entered and won the costume contest. Judging costumes is one of the hardest jobs at the campground, that's why I ask others to do it. Thanks Rick, Deb, Denny, Jacque and Grandma for helping. I am saving the Haunted Shelter props for later in this issue. They deserve more than just a line.

Thanks to all who helped through the year. The list is way too long for what room I have left in this article. I will say that it does take hard work from a few to create an activity that is fun for all. I hope you all enjoyed this year and come back for more in 2024.

Interested in Moving Campsites?



Attention current permanent campers! Are you sick of your neighbors? Is there another part of the campground you would like to try to move to? Well, you're in luck! Before I start bringing in new campers for 2024, all open sites are available to current residents.

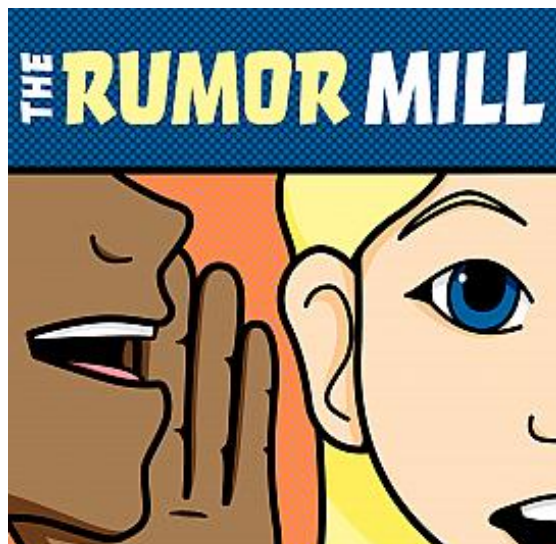
Call us and get your name on the list if you are interested in seeing what spots are available. If you don't find one you like better, you just keep your happy camper butt where you are.

I will ask that if you do move, you move as soon as you can. I will still need to get your spot filled by another anxious camper.

Please do not move without speaking to Mike first. There is a matter of getting the meters read and making sure the site does not need any improvements.

Setting the Record Straight

There have been a couple rumors floating around the campground. First, Poor Farmer's RV has not sold out to anyone. I understand that Stillwater Beach sold to a company named The Freedom Group, a "family-first" corporation. <https://freedomgp.com/blog/the-freedom-group-commits-nearly-1-million-in-investments-to-local-stillwater-rv-park> This link will give you some more info. Poor Farmer's RV is a "family owned" business and we plan on keeping it that way. It isn't very often a business is able to span across four generations. I hope that Carl is looking down from Heaven and smiling at the way his campground is being taken care of. Year by year we make improvements to infrastructure, aesthetics, and our activities. These improvements fit into our budget so we don't have to raise your rates every year. Which brings me to the next rumor... camping rates will remain the same for 2024. We discussed it, and decided we would be able to accomplish what needs done next year without an increase. The only changes we are making to our pricing are some specific weekends through the summer for overnight camping. There is no other campground in the area that offers more for less. If you find one, please let me know.



The final rumor I would like to address is that Poor Farmer's is planning on putting in a swimming pool. Listen folks, I just went over how we make improvements according to our budget to keep camping rates low enough so good folks like you can afford to keep coming out to see us. If we put a swimming pool in, the rates would skyrocket, the kid population would triple, and you would be subjected to seeing me without my shirt on. I'm sorry, but I just can't do that to you guys. I like you too much and on top of that, I have a terrible golfer's tan, that's like a farmer's tan but with a V in the front. If the kids, or you want to go swimming... jump in the creek and swim.

CHARLIE'S CHAT

President Donald Trump

Smug Billionaire who has been labeled a “textbook” narcissist gets millions of votes.

Trump! You love him or you hate him. There seems to be no “in between” with this guy. What do we love? We love that he represents something this country hasn't had in a very long time... a president that has the resources to not be bought. Why do we hate him? Because he represents a side of politics that is not progressive, and he does it very vocally with no filter.

He is a “textbook narcissist”. He will stop at nothing to get what he feels he is entitled to, and that is to finish a full term as president. The fact that he feels he was cheated only makes it worse.

Barak Obama said that the best thing about Trump, was his children. I wonder if he could say the same for our current president. With all the conspiracy that surrounded him, I still respected President Obama. I didn't agree with much of his agenda, but he had a vision, and he was working for it. I see the same thing in President Trump.

If I could change Donald Trump, I wouldn't. I wouldn't want anyone to change me, so I don't feel it's my place to change another. However, I do disagree with some of the things he says, but that doesn't always make him wrong. Let's just say, I would love to spend a day on the golf course with him. Just one day.

Donald Trump loves to win. He told us that when he was elected President, that America would win so much, we would get tired of winning. Well, he was wrong. I didn't get tired of winning. In fact, I wanted four more years of winning. Just two weeks after President Trump was inaugurated, Jeff White, Service Manager at the time, said, “Why is my paycheck more?” That was a win in my book.

When Trump would go overseas and talk to Putin, Ping and Rocket Man, I would always worry that opposition prophecies would ring true and BOOM! There we are in WW3, but that didn't happen. That was a big win for me. When he invested in our military, not only with guns and tanks, but with specific funding for Veterans Services and military retirement plans. My brothers and sisters in the military benefited greatly from the policies President Trump put in place. Another win.

Most of the opposition I see against Donald Trump relates to his personality. There are the extreme folks who throw out names like I throw out candy at the



Memorial Day parade. They call him a bigot, racist, sexist, homophobe. At least Trump fires back with names we can understand, like Crooked Hillary, Sleepy Joe, and Fake News CNN.

There is a larger group of people that seem more inclined to view Trump as that conceited, annoying uncle at Christmas who is never wrong, has all the best stuff, and your glad it will be another year before you are forced to listen to it again. These are the folks who just don't want to talk about politics for fear of getting into a heated political discussion. Save that stuff for social media.

Don't get me wrong, there are plenty of people who disagree with Trump policies. That is how politics goes. What made it bad was that many of the Americans who disagreed with Trump were just as vocal and insulting as he was. That made for many people, even some Conservatives to waiver their support for him. Ronald Reagan had his faults, but he always seemed to be a classy guy. Maybe that is how President Trump related to much of America. Many of us are Neanderthals, just ask my mother.

When it comes down to it, I don't give my vote to a personality. I give my vote to the person I think will preserve our American way of life. Someone who will protect this great nation from threats around the world and within our own borders. I don't even want to think about my 18-year-old son fighting in a useless war that could have been avoided with a stronger administration. Ask yourself; If you were China, Iran, Russia, or any other aggressive nation, who would you not want as President?

President Trump may be a narcissist. He may be overly full of himself, but that doesn't mean he's wrong. It just means when he is right, he can be rather annoying, and when he's wrong, he's even more annoying. I'm here to say, he isn't always right, and I don't always agree, but I agree more with him than I do any other choice out there. My choice for a running mate, former South Carolina Governor and United Nations Ambassador, Nikki Haley. She is tough. No matter what though, I'm a big NO 4 JOE.

Don't forget to vote on November 7th.

Full Solar Eclipse

April 8th, 2024



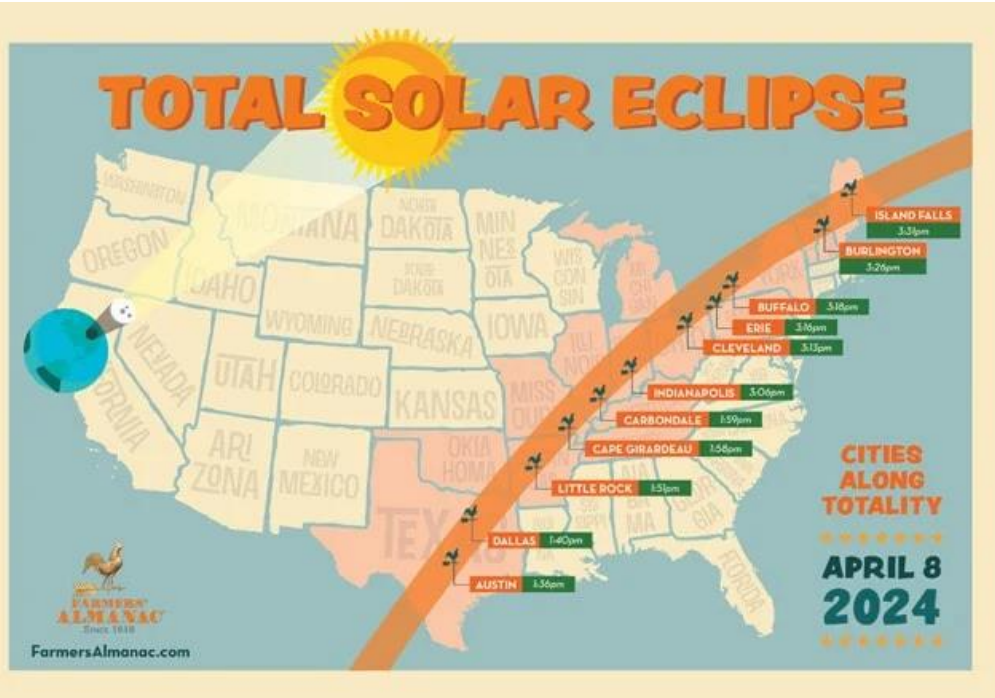
Solar eclipses occur somewhere around the globe on average every 1.5 years. Since the birth of our nation (1776) there have only been 21 solar eclipses pass over the lower 48 states. In 2017, we were able to see this phenomenon in Fletcher, but not in totality. At full eclipse, we still saw a sliver of the sun and did not reach total darkness because of that. If you look at the map of America below, you will see how narrow the path of totality is. During the 2017 eclipse, the population of the area within totality more than doubled during the event, and the Miami Valley is preparing for similar circumstances.

On April 8th at 1:53pm, the event will begin. You will be able to see the moon start its path across the sun. At 3:09pm, totality will begin and will last approx. four minutes and at 4:27pm the event will be over. This 2-hour and 34-minute eclipse will not be seen over Ohio for another 75 years, September 14th, 2099, and even then, it will only be total in Northern Ohio. Viewing a total eclipse from you front yard or your campsite at Poor Farmer's will not happen again within your lifetime. Poor Farmer's has opened reservations for 2024. If you know of someone who is interested in seeing this event in totality, tell them to get their reservation made now before we book up. We have decided to make the reservation a three-night minimum (April 6th, 7th, & 8th) so that we are not trying to park hundreds of campers on the day of the event. If the weather permits, we will have the water on and might plan some activities for the weekend that are solar related.

If reservations fill up long before the event occurs, I may petition for some temporary "primitive" sites so we can accommodate more eclipse viewers for the weekend, but we will see what happens. Below are a couple links that will give you more information on the event. There is even one that has a timeline of the eclipse. I will keep you all posted as the time gets closer.

<https://eclipse2024.org/eclipse-cities/city/31245.html>

<https://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/see-the-sights/solar-eclipse-2024>



Poor Farmer's RV

About 20 miles from dead center

Jimmy Weaver and The Psychos



Our good friend Jimmy Weaver and his merry band of Psychos have once again created enough scares to power Monstropolis for days. We had a record number of victims this year and almost all of them made it out. I think the Mad Scientist got them.

Jimmy and The Psychos have been hosting our Haunted Shelter since 2019. Jimmy has been in the haunting business since he was a wee lad in 1982 when he started the Poor Farmer's Haunted Trail. He went on to work with different people on different houses and was one of the people who helped start Land of Illusion. The psychos take their haunting very seriously. They devour screams and thrive on jump scares. They meticulously set up their haunt with only their victims in mind. As they get the lighting just right, so the blood splatter's glossy reflection catches their victim's eye right before the chainsaw fires up.

The Poor Farmer's Haunted Shelter gives you an array of ghouls and monsters; from killer clowns to the darkness, the Psychos know what makes you jump, even if it's a scream from the Baby Mama.

We can't thank Jimmy and The Psychos enough for their hard work. We will have an after-haunt party for the crew to thank them for all they do to make Halloween at Poor Farmer's one of the best around.

Halloween Campsite Decorating Winners

Mike and Jen Conley

Gary and Theresa Hoke

Perm Site Winner



Nightly Site Winner





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Diane M. Lyons
Realtor

Costume Contest Winners



Best Group



Best Couple



Best Golf Cart

Guess the Year

- First successful transplant of a pig's heart into a human. Genetically modified pig's heart inserted into a 53-year-old man in Baltimore, Maryland
- 19-year-old aviator Zara Rutherford becomes the youngest woman to fly solo around the world, landing at Kortrijk-Wevelgem Airport, Belgium
- Explorer Ernest Shackleton's ship Endurance that sank in 1915, rediscovered in the Weddell Sea, Antarctica in excellent condition
- The Taliban government bans cultivation of opium in Afghanistan, with consequences for world supply as it produces 80%
- Volkswagen launches a prototype of its first flying car, an automated, electric passenger vehicle nicknamed "Flying Tiger"