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Poor Farmer's RV

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The Chatter

www.poorfarmerrvs.com

By Mike Till

2026 Camping Season Recap

If I were to describe 2026 as anything… it would be the year of the raindrop. When Poor Farmer's hosted an event, the rain somehow felt it was invited. One customer asked me if I did something to upset Mother Nature. I told him I would gladly buy her a drink and apologize if I did anything to offend her, but she just kept sending me drinks.

At the end of April, Poor Farmer's hosted the Marines from Tustin. Twenty-five Marines who all served at MCAS Tustin, in southern California gathered to catch up with one another. We shot guns, played poker, and enjoyed a 250th Marine Corps Birthday celebration hosted by our brother, GySgt (Ret) BJ Curtis. I would trust every one of these men and women with my life, but not my money or my wife. 😉



MCAS Tustin PMO 2026 Reunion

Opening Season Weekend brought veterans from every branch of the military. Operation Veteran and Caregiver Support hosted this fun weekend with karaoke, wrestling, an Ice Cream breakfast, dinner and a live performance by Steven "Crash" Worley. The weekend was topped off with the annual All SARS K-9 & Poor Farmer's Open at Lakeland GC.



Memorial Day Weekend was setting up to be a great weekend. The campground was completely booked, and we had an entire weekend of activities ready to go. Jimmy got everyone parked Friday with little issue, then Saturday morning, the rain came. First, we cancelled the golf cart event since the ground was so wet. Then, we watched as the floods arrived. We moved a couple of RVs, and then the rain stopped. Usually, when the rain stops, the flooding recedes. Not this time.

We took five inches of rain from a system that was traveling from the south to the north. So, once the rain stopped, all the rain that continued north had to go somewhere, and it went south, right back to Poor Farmer's, accumulating to about 9 inches of rain total. In 2012 we had the worst flood that I had seen at the campground… this one was worse. It just kept getting deeper after the rain stopped. We were able to avoid any RVs from getting water in them and many of our campers were able to relocate to still enjoy the weekend. Even though we rescheduled our Saturday events, we were still able to host our BINGO, The Poker Run, and the second installment of Krazyoke.



June brought the Spring Tractor Show & Flea Market along with warnings of severe weather. Despite the forecast, and me being out sick, a great weekend was had by all. We were able to reschedule our Blind Quarter Auction for the Saturday of the show and were pleasantly surprised by the large attendance. The tractor club was able to pull, and campers were able to get Butcher Built, Tony's Subs, Ullery's Ice Cream and Chucks Fair Foods.



At the end of June, we celebrated Grandparents with a weekend of fun for young and old alike. The day started with a Lego build, sponsored by Buckeye Bricks in Troy. Grandparents and grandkids worked together to build many creative Lego sculptures. After the free build, we held a Star Wars Lego Race. Each kid was given a small Mandalorian Razorcrest ship to build. We gave prizes and a tour of Mike's office to the winners. Once we cleaned up and sorted all the Lego, we went to lunch.











When they returned, Fletcher Volunteer Fire Department was here to cool the crowd down. There was a Slip-N-Slide and everything. We followed that up with a scavenger hunt, a balloon launch, and finished the day with ice cream.

America's 250th Birthday Celebration kicked off the month of July. For this event, sweltering heat and humidity covered the campground. It was so hot that we had to reschedule the Redneck Games to Labor Day Weekend, but Human Battleship went over well since they were throwing water balloons at each other. We finished the weekend with the third installment of Krazyoke with Bill Miller.

The very next weekend, we hosted our Jeep Wrangle. This year we were able to attract 69 Jeeps of all make and models to our event. The shelter was full of vendors selling anything from 3-D printed art to hand crafted wooden boxes. Jimmy did a great job filling the air with music and even though our taco truck couldn't make it, the Taco Jeep did. Oh ya… it rained.

From July 15th through the 18th, the Buckeye Woodcarvers invaded the campground. Jim and Barb Foster held another stellar event with woodcarvers of all disciplines from all over Ohio and the surrounding states. They had record attendance this year and we really appreciate them pulling in the campers.

Ho! Ho! Ho! At the end of the seventh month, we celebrated Christmas in July. The BINGO was Santa inspired and the Christmas Cookie Exchange added at least an inch to my slim waistline. We enjoyed a Rock Paint craft. They put me in charge of something that I never get to do… run the hair dryer. After all the rocks were dry, Christmas Dinner was served; ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans and a dinner roll. Thanks to Judy and Mom for all your help with the food. Not only for this event, but for your help all year making sure the food is hot, delicious and plentiful. Love you both!

August brought the 11th Annual Golf Cart Rodeo. There were twenty participants gunning for the title of Golf Cart Rodeo Champion. Little did they know, they were all Golf Cart Rodeo Champions, except Rich… he came in second, but he did get the Best Buggy Blunder Award… for coming in second. Thanks to the Odd Powers team and everyone else who participated in this event. Much thanks to Rick LeVally, Ken Bailey, and my beautiful wife Andrea for helping make it happen.

That evening, after we handed out awards, Bark Bobber showed up to host Game Show Night. Along with Jimmy and the Bobber Babes, we had hours of fun playing The Price is Close and Friendly Feud. Contestants did their best to guess retail prices on products Mike found on clearance. Then, teams battle each other as we discover how many stupid answers come from the one-hundred random people asked. Really, a gerbil is the number one thing that a doctor might pull out of someone? Take me Lord! The big winner of the night was Jaiden; he got the big bottle of ketchup that no one won.

We kicked off Labor Day Weekend with The Shriner's Breakfast. Fourteen years ago, Steve and Patty hosted a Super Rally. It was their twenty-year anniversary of owning the business and they wanted to send the mortgage up on the biggest bomb they could find. So, they enlisted the help of Mike Elsner and Tony Gustin to put on a fireworks display that rivals a small city. During this weekend we discovered Chris Cakes. They made pancakes, then would proceed to chuck them at our campers.

For some reason, people really enjoyed that. Ever since, we have been making pancakes for The Shriner's Breakfast. This year we decided to serve ham and eggs like we did in the late 1900's and early 2000's. I think everyone enjoyed it, but we got quite a few requests to bring back the hotcakes. Also, I think Jimmy really likes to throw pancakes at people.

Comedian/ventriloquist, Mike Hemmelgarn, entertained us with magic, puppetry and comedy. Robin and Andrea did a fantastic job of setting up the Hawaiian Luau. I was very pleased that no one broke their back doing the Limbo. This was also the weekend for the final round of Krazyoke, which I am proud to say was won by Lori Gross, who just one year ago was not very easy to get on stage. Lori has a beautiful singing voice, and we deserve to hear it, even if it takes a $100 Amazon gift card to do it. Here she is, pictured left, with me and our friend Bill Miller, a talented singer and harmonica player.

The Carl Springer Memorial Tractor Show and Flea Market brought campers, vendors and more raindrops. It isn't very often that the tractor club is forced to cancel a pull for the Tractor Show, but this year, they did. The vendors spent most of the time with tarps over their products, the attendance was lower than I can remember, and once again, Ullery's wasn't able to make it. All in all, it was not the best tractor show to date, but as always, you guys made the best of it.



Our final month of the season has been the busiest for the past five or six years. Halloween is a big deal to a great number of campers. According to Google, Halloween ranks third, behind Christmas and Thanksgiving, in the amount of revenue generated. Since that is the only holiday, of those three, that occurs during the camping season, it receives quite a bit of attention. Also, folks are trying to camp as much as possible before the end of the season, so everything culminates into the reasoning behind why October is such a great month.



Directly after the Tractor Show, Jimmy and his Psychos get to work on setting up the Haunted Shelter. It takes quite a few man hours to get the haunt operational. It also takes an abundance of props, lumber, decorations, and black plastic. The Psychos spend upwards of 200 combined hours setting up, performing, and tearing down… all for 12 total hours of showtime. That is some serious dedication to their art.

Jimmy would like to put a spotlight on a few members of the cast that each year go above and beyond what is expected of them. Ryan McCrea has a key leadership role in the haunt. He is someone that gives as much time as he can to set-up, show and tear-down. His attention to detail and the part he plays is the reason he was chosen as our candidate for The Ohio Haunter's Association "Outstanding Performance Award" for 2025 (Pictured right).



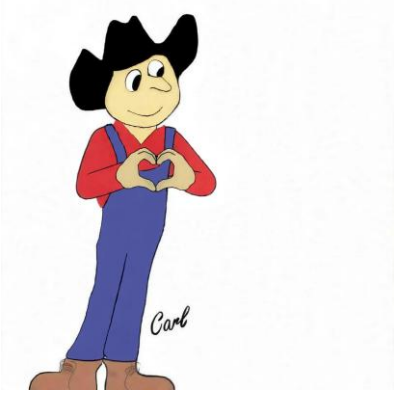
Lori Gross has been a big part of the haunt as our lead witch. Her help in decoration and design can be seen throughout the shelter. Her granddaughter, Alaina Briella Coleman, or as we call her, ABC, showed some great initiative by volunteering for the role of "accused witch" where she was hanged multiple times over two weeks. Her role and performance earned her the nomination for the 2026 Ohio Haunter's Association "Outstanding Performance Award". We would like to thank the rest of the crew and the families of the kids for giving up much of their October for the haunt.

Our Halloween Weekends have grown to such scale that it has become a staple at Poor Farmer's. In just a few years, we went from having a one-night event after a hog roast to two full-blown Halloween Weekends, complete with costume contest, site judging, and the Haunted Shelter. Thanks to all involved in making these weekends fun and frightful, especially all you campers who decorated so well.



We would like to thank everyone who helped, participated or just came to watch our fun-filled activities. If you have any suggestions for new activities, comments on improving current ones, or would like to volunteer to help with anything, please let us know. You can reach us by phone, email, Facebook or my preferred method, stop out and say "Hi!".

There are a few people that need recognized for their efforts in making 2026 a great year. Our Camp Office Girls, Judy Weaver, Robin Welch, and Jacque Shoenleben performed flawlessly with getting the campers what they needed. They not only handle the campers with grace, but they put up with my shenanigans as well. We love you ladies and appreciate all you do.



Kathy Love has been preaching the word at Poor Farmer's since before I arrived. Her spiritual guidance and love for Jesus overflows from her heart into ours. Church in the Big Red Barn is something I look forward to. Nothing gets you right like filling your heart with Jesus. Thank you, Kathy, for your dedication to our salvation.

We hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas, and the happiest of New Years. The 2027 Activity Schedule should be published soon, so keep an eye on our Facebook page and our website. In the meantime, stop in a see us, get a gift certificate for a fellow camper, or take advantage of some of Mason's clearance items in the store. Just remember, we only have 22 Saturdays until camping season. Peace, Love & Camping!

Polar Farmers

Once all the fair-weather campers have closed their RV for the winter, all that remains are the Polar Farmers. The Polar Farmers hold a special place in my heart. Their lifestyles are attacked by cold winter weather. It is almost like they flip a switch in their head at the beginning of November. Long golf cart rides turn into trips to fill the water tank. Instead of checking the Activity Schedule, they are monitoring the weather forecast to see if Lynn is going to have to shovel them out with the backhoe, and campfires are replaced with a working furnace and full LP tank.
For those new to polar camping, here are a couple things to remember…

- Please keep the restrooms in order. We do clean them, but we don't have a 24/7 attendant. If you have any issues with the shower house, please let our staff know. Kids must have supervision.
- Parking is always an issue. Please be respectful of your neighbors and my grass. You can park along the road if other traffic can pass, you can park extra vehicles on your summer site if you have one, or in a public parking area (see staff).
- Keep the outside spicket on the shelter open so others can access the water. For those campers who have moved up, please take special care of the hose and reel provided. It is stored just inside the men's restroom.
- Remember to keep an eye on your LP tanks, especially as the weekend gets closer as we are closed on Saturday and Sunday.
- You may insulate around your RV with insulation board or skirting if done neatly. Hay, straw or other aggregates are not permitted to be use for insulating.
- Ultimate RV is offering dumping services and water fill services. See ad below.
- With many of the campers moved up, space it limited and your neighbors are close. Please be respectful to your neighbors. Keep the noise at a minimum, keep the pet droppings picked up, and mind the youngsters.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact one of our staff and we will assist you in the best way possible. Let's Go Winter Campin'!

*One more thing… I have noticed quite a bit of trash on Lostcreek-Shelby Rd. This is probably from someone who is not in the campground because our campers wouldn't litter. So, if any of you see anyone littering on the roadway, please let me know. The Sheriff keeps his camper out here and would like the area to remain beautiful.





The First Thanksgiving

The year was 1620. The mission… get two ships, the Mayflower and the Speedwell, full of supplies and 120 passengers to the New World. Separatists from Holland and England were escaping religious persecution for a new life on the freshly named American Continent. Of course, we all know that the first thing to break down is the plan itself.

When the colonists first left South Hampton, England in August of 1620, they were planning to arrive in the Americas by the end of October. However, the Speedwell developed leaks and both ships turned back. After one more attempt, the Speedwell was deemed unfit for the ocean. Finally, in September of 1620, the already crowded Mayflower took about thirty passengers from the Speedwell and left Plymouth, England for their new life.

The journey took 66 days to complete. The pilgrims faced severe weather and harsh living conditions during their voyage on an old cargo ship that was not built for passengers. Their original target was the mouth of the Hudson River, where New York is today. Due to the weather they encountered, they were forced north to (Provincetown Harber) Cape Cod, Massachusetts on November 9th, 1620.

Once they arrived at Provincetown Harbor, they did not disembark. They sailed south towards their original destination in Northern Virginia. Finding that the sea was too rough to keep going, they turned back to Cape Cod and started scouting the area. They discovered that Cape Cod lacked the water supply needed and decided to settle across the bay at Plymouth Harbor.

While still aboard the Mayflower, 41 male colonists signed the Mayflower Compact to establish a government since they were outside of the Virginia Charter. On December 18th, the first colonists set foot in their new home, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

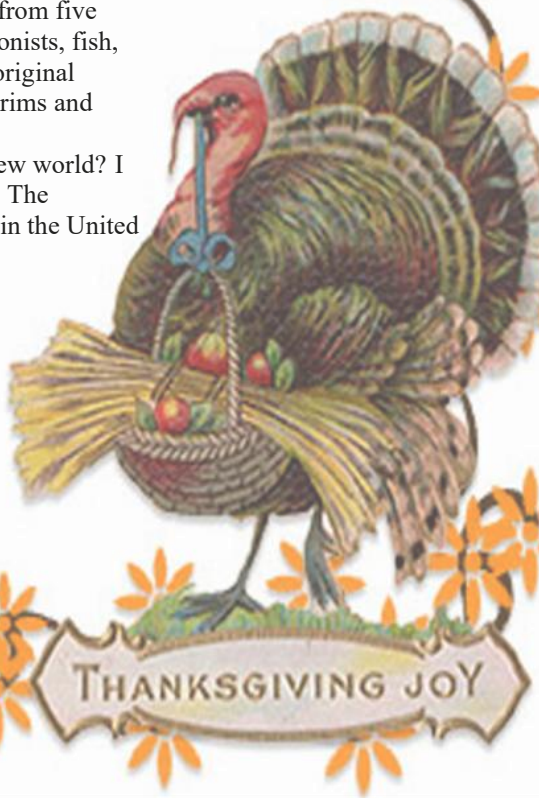
During the first winter in the New World, the pilgrims lost about half of their settlers due to starvation, lack of shelter and disease. Many pilgrims spent that first winter aboard the Mayflower. Only 53 pilgrims survived the winter. I can only imagine how grateful they were for spring to arrive.

In the Spring of 1621, the pilgrims contacted local Wampanoag people, notably Tisquantum (Squanto) and Chief Massasoit, who helped the pilgrims navigate the land, plant crops and harvest native animals like deer and fowl. This relationship was symbiotic, the natives received materials and supplies from the colonists, as well as protection from rival tribes in the area.

In the fall of 1621, the harvest produced by the combined efforts of the 53 pilgrims and the Wampanoag people was vast. In early November, Plymouth's Governor, William Bradford, organized a three-day feast to celebrate the bountiful harvest. The menu for this meal was venison, which came from five deer brought by the natives, waterfowl, which was hunted by the colonists, fish, corn, squash, and beans. There was no turkey or pumpkin pie at the original Thanksgiving dinner. Among the participants were 53 surviving pilgrims and roughly 90 Wampanoag men.

What was the impact of these 102 colonists leaving Europe for the new world? I asked Google: "How many people today are of Mayflower lineage?" The answer… 35 million people worldwide, including 10 million people in the United States. In a matter of 400 years, 53 colonists spawned outwards into 35 million people globally. Many of which shared similar religious and moral beliefs.

Modern day Thanksgiving celebrations focus on gathering family, preparing the meal, and being thankful for what we have. This year please keep these brave men and women of Plymouth in mind. Despite losing a ship, enduring a long sea voyage, losing half of their population to the first winter, and negotiating an alliance with native people, they still found a way to give glory to God and create a home that allowed them to do so.





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Guess the Year

- "The Hunger Games" starring Jennifer Lawrence premieres in Los Angeles
- Conservative political nonprofit organization Turning Point USA is founded by Charlie Kirk
- WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is granted political asylum by Ecuador
- Hurricane Sandy makes landfall in New Jersey results in 110 deaths and $50 billion in damage and forces the New York stock exchange to close
- Walt Disney purchases Lucasfilm Ltd and its rights for Star Wars and Indiana Jones franchises for $4.05 billion
- 28 people, including 20 children, are shot to death at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut

Answer…… 2012