

Grand Rogue Fun Times

“MORE THAN JUST A PLACE TO PARK”

Issue No. 30 SPRING 2009



Will Tom Cruise and Family Tent Camp at the Grand Rogue this Summer?

WE'RE SAVING THE SITES!

Dateline Monday, March 09, 2009

That familiar-looking family camping in America's campgrounds this spring might just be Hollywood superstar Tom Cruise and his family. Cruise "is all set to camp it up across America," mirror.co.uk, a British news service, reported in today's edition. The story was picked up and distributed across the U.S. "We can reveal that he will be turning his back on luxury hotels and five-star resorts to take wife Katie and daughter Suri on a no-frills trip in the U.S.," according to the British agency.

The Cruises apparently will reject the comforts of an RV and instead rough it in a tent, the agency reported. "And Katie, 30, can't wait to dive into a tent with her husband - who can cook up a spaghetti storm under the stars. She said: "We love the outdoors. Once when we were camping Tom made his pasta carbonara for me. "He knows exactly how to do it. A pinch of this, a pinch of that. He has a recipe, but he also kind of improvises by himself. You have to do the egg at a certain time."

Tom and family will be off to bond with nature at the end of the month, when he finishes promoting his new movie "Valkyrie." According to the AHN news service, while Tom is taking the trip to "bond" with his family, they won't be alone - a religious adviser and a security team will accompany the trio at all times. A source said: "They'll be accompanied by a friend from the Church of Scientology, as Tom never likes to be too far away from his religion." "They will also have security camped down the road to keep any unwelcome people at bay." "They are certainly likely to cause a bit of a frenzy. But the whole point of them moving away from luxury holidays is to do things as a normal family." Another source added to Britain's *Daily Mirror* newspaper: "This is what Tom wants for Suri. He doesn't want her to miss out on the things he and Katie enjoyed as kids, just because she is growing up in the spotlight."

Tom, 46, reportedly started planning the trip when he spent time in the Brazilian jungle while in South America earlier this year. He and Katie often went camping before the birth of their daughter and can't wait to spend time in the great outdoors again. But the 30-year-old former "Dawson's Creek" star admitted she wouldn't be helping her husband with the campfire cooking. She said: "I don't really cook that much, though I do make cupcakes."

No word on where they will start, go and end, so keep an eye out this spring for a sharp-looking family of three tent camping. The Mrs. is slightly taller than her chef.

Reprinted by permission -- Woodall's Campground Management

SEEN AROUND THE GRAND ROGUE LAST SUMMER

Thanks to Jim Houtman, Al Stover and Keith & Marcie Russell.





GO TO www.grandroque.com FOR UP TO DATE EVENTS & INFO

GRAND ROGUE HERO'S

The following Grand Rogue Campground guests are hero's in our eyes. They lined up with our partner Michigan Community Blood Centers to be one of those unselfish supporters who wanted to make a difference -- maybe even save someone's life as a donor during our blood drives this past summer. We want you know how much we appreciate your thoughtfulness. Tom & Joan and the entire Briggs Family.

Kevin Abby, Deb & Bob Brechting, Nancy Breckon, Joan Briggs, Tracy Cashman, Kathy Dahnke, Heidi Davey, Lester Dunneback, Brendt Gerics, Mark Gerics, Stephen Goebel, Audrey, Heather & Jeff Goodale, Pam Graftema, Amy Hahn, Karen Jackson, Ted Kalin, Patricia Keeder, Amy & Gordy Larkins, Sarah Stanul, Brad Van Beek, Brian & Lorri Yusten, Art Ackerson, Cathy Bergeron, Jennifer Blake, Dave Briggs, Richard Bruneau, Jessica Cole, Carol Cornett, Bob & Linda Crump, Toni Falk, Nancy Hart, Brian, Karen and Travis Holmes, Andrew Holzschu, Kari Lydell, Samantha Larson, Zack Lichtman, Rhonda Moore, Todd Morris, Brian Noreen, Steven Palmbo, Allen Spade, Julie Beaulieu, Anita De Long, Richard Dominick, Jennifer Olson and Crystal Williams. Several of these folks also donated multiple times.

A total of 45 usable pints of blood were collected. This amount has the potetial to save over 90 lives. We think we have everyone listed but if we missed you, contact us and your name will go up on the web edition of this newsletter.

We have scheduled blood drives this summer on Memorial, 4th of July, Labor Day and Encampment Weekends.

We also want to give our sincere thank you again to the following organizations for their part in this life changing event: Mr. Burger, Coopersville & Marne Railway, Grand Rapids Children's Museum, Gerald R. Ford Museum, Jets Pizza, Katt Insurance Agency, Kaleidascoops, Modern RV Center, Thunder Bay Services & Car Washes, Van Andel Museum and West Michigan Tourist Association. Thank you very much for your generous contributions. We appreciate it.

FREE STORAGE OFFER EXTENDED

The FREE storage offer that we put into action last summer due to the high gas prices will be extended into this 2009 season. Store your RV at the Grand Rogue for up to 14 consecutive days for FREE if you camp with us before and after those days. SAVE GAS. Come back to the Grand Rogue and enjoy all the area has to offer. We'll store your unit and if possible, spot it for you so it's ready on arrival.

Meijer Gardens to Celebrate 40th Anniversary of "The Calder"

Nineteen Sixty Nine was a very good year. Not only was it the year Northview High School thrust Tom upon the world and ushered us into the conceptual concert forum called Woodstock -- if you remember it, you weren't there -- it also brought to Grand Rapids "La Grande Vitesse." With a major grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park celebrates Alexander Calder's prolific work. Among the most innovative sculptors of the 20th century, Calder, and his iconic masterpieces, played an influential role in public art in American culture. This exhibition focuses on the year "La Grande Vitesse" was installed in Grand Rapids: the first public sculpture project funded by the NEA. In addition, from June 5 - September 7 the Gardens will present "Calder: Creative Thinker" an interactive exhibition that encourages visitors to engage with Calder's work.

A FARM IS COMING TO THE GRAND RAPIDS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM THIS SUMMER

GRCM has partnered with The Urban Institute for Contemporary Art (UICA) to create an interactive farm exhibit for a June 15, 2009 opening. West Michigan farm life will come alive giving children the opportunity to pick apples, feed animals grow plants, gather eggs and enjoy what it's like to work and live on a farm. This exhibit is designed to be safe as well as fun while making sure that children 0 - 10 get the opportunity to play as they learn by doing, experiencing and imagining. The exhibit will include these components: Barn & Animals, Field & Orchard, Planting Garden w/ Scarecrow, Weather & Weathervane, and a Farming Fun Lab.

Great Spring Cleanup Day 2009

Our **GSCD** will be on **April 4 -- Rain date April 18**. We will be at the campground from 10 AM to 4 PM and you are invited to join us. It's a day we spend doing lots of little jobs throughout the park and we sure appreciate the help. Last day we had to go to our second rain day because of the weather but we had some real troopers still show. Joan will make up a great big batch of Sloppy Joes and some of Tom's famous, "Death By Flatulence" baked beans as lunch for the crew. We appreciate the help. Give us a call at home 942-1071 if you're coming so we can make up enough brownies. **THANK YOU!**

Star gaze and wonder under a full moon this summer at the Grand Rogue

According to the *Farmers Almanac*: Full Moon names date back to Native Americans, of what is now the northern and eastern United States. The tribes kept track of the seasons by giving distinctive names to each recurring full Moon. Their names were applied to the entire month in which each occurred. There was some variation in the Moon names, but in general, the same ones were current throughout the Algonquin tribes from New England to Lake Superior. European settlers followed that custom and created some of their own names. Since the lunar month is only 29 days long on the average, the full Moon dates shift from year to year.

- **Full Flower Moon - May 9** In most areas, flowers are abundant everywhere during this time. Thus, the name of this Moon. Other names include the Full Corn Planting Moon, or the Milk Moon.
- **Full Strawberry Moon - June 7** This name was universal to every Algonquin tribe. However, in Europe they called it the Rose Moon. Also because the relatively short season for harvesting strawberries comes each year during the month of June . . . so the full Moon that occurs during that month was christened for the strawberry!
- **The Full Buck Moon - July 7** July is normally the month when the new antlers of buck deer push out of their foreheads in coatings of velvety fur. It was also often called the Full Thunder Moon, for the reason that thunderstorms are most frequent during this time. Another name for this month's Moon was the Full Hay Moon.
- **Full Sturgeon Moon - August 5** The fishing tribes are given credit for the naming of this Moon, since sturgeon, a large fish of the Great Lakes and other major bodies of water, were most readily caught during this month. A few tribes knew it as the Full Red Moon because, as the Moon rises, it appears reddish through any sultry haze. It was also called the Green Corn Moon or Grain Moon.

• **Full Corn Moon - September 4** This full moon's name is attributed to Native Americans because it marked when corn was supposed to be harvested. Most often, the September full moon is actually the Harvest Moon.

Nature knows no indecencies; man invents them.

- *Mark Twain's Notebook*

10 Reasons to Love Spring Camping in Michigan

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Wildflowers | 2. Woodland Edibles |
| 3. Fishing | 4. Wine Tasting |
| 5. Bird Watching | 6. Paddling |
| 7. Peddling | 8. Hiking |
| 9. Golfing | 10. Geocaching |

Springtime or anytime is a great time to go camping. Everyone of these things can be done on site or within four miles of the Grand Rogue. And don't forget we again have season tickets to the West Michigan Whitecaps Baseball. We'd love to have you take in a game -- on us. All you have to do is ask and we almost always have **FREE** tickets available.

///BRIGGS REALTY CORNER///

Tom and Wendy have a few properties available this time around. If anything looks interesting give us a call.

CAMPGROUND IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Sale Price reduced to \$495,000 with Owner Financing Available This is a well established campground in a quiet area of farms, rural residents and bedroom community dwellers escaping the nearby larger metropolises. The 145 campsites and the 40 acres of property varies from quite wooded to open grassy ground. A creek flows along one side of the camping area and there also is a couple of ponds on the property. The park features several buildings including one 40' X 96', designed for and used by clubs, reunions, receptions and many other types of family and service gatherings during the season and is rented for storage during the off season. This is an older facility but the infrastructure is good, offered for sale by the original owner who built the campground. It needs fresh blood ready to promote and grow the park into a viable business once again.

NORTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN CAMPGROUND

Listed Price is \$650,000 This is a full service modern family campground located in one of Michigan's tourism hot spots. It is a wooded park, currently operated year round, licensed for 100 sites with facilities including home, camper cabins, pool, pavilion, fishing pond and a very good propane business. There is a camp store and rec room. Modern bath and laundry facilities as well as a workshop. Easily accessed, less than 4 miles from a major interstate and within striking distances of the Mighty Mac. This is a turnkey operation ready to take over.

what's doing with us

We have worked a couple of RV Shows this winter with varying success and results. The first one during January in Grand Rapids at the DeVos Place which was surprisingly good. Meaning busy with RV buyers. Another one at the Delta Plex in February which was much slower and a third in Novi which was part of an event known as Outdoorama. That one was a monster. I think everyone from the south east part of the state was there. It was wall to wall people on the Saturday that we worked. It was a perfect storm as far as weather. Clear with sunshine and no driving problems. But it was so darn cold that no one wanted to be outside. So they were all inside at the show.

We worked the booth for our campground owners association handing out the free little green campground directories that so many folks carry. Working the booth is an interesting proposition especially depending on who your neighbors are. For instance at the DeVos show we had the guy selling roasted, coated almonds on one side and a parade of pretty girls from some bank--have no idea which--offering to lend money for RV purchases in the booth on the other. The almond guy and his wife were great. They coated the almonds on a regular basis and always provided samples. The pretty girls showed a lot of leg from their stools but didn't lend a lot of money.

Everyone though is usually friendly and as the day or days wear on you get to know your neighbors pretty well. We'll watch each other's booth if we need a potty break or just a short walk to ease the back. Personally we have worked with everything from flag salesmen, to boat dealers. From African outfitters, to the sheriff's department. Other resort owners to businesses giving away chances to win a Hummer if you'll give them your address and phone number so they can call you at dinner time to see if you want to buy windows.

We ran into something new just lately though when we ended up next to the booth for the American Association for Nude Recreation. "Join AANR and see more of your friends." We're certainly not pruders and the folks in the booth were very nice but it was hard not to let your imagination wander just a bit. The folks from AANR were handing out nail files and chap stick. It was very interesting and actually kind of entertaining to see reactions and body language of some attendees who took time to read labels on the swag they had scored walking past the booth. We signed Ed up.

Our next show is the big Ultimate Sports Show here in Grand Rapids where for the last couple of years we have taken Grandson Koby. We think with the right leisure suit he could be the Herb Tarlek of his generation. He helps us hand out brochures and flirts with the ladies in the neighboring booths so they will give him candy. Really hope none of them are handing out nail files. Last year he went up the climbing wall and fished in the giant trout pond. It is a very entertaining show as are most here at the DeVos Place. If you're coming down and see this by March 19, save yourself a few bucks by going back to the Fall 2008 Newsletter on our website www.grandrogue.com and download the "Buy one get one Free" coupon.

We're looking forward to a great summer and seeing you!

Tom & Joan