

20 April 2001

"We stand alone and our voice is small. — We stand together and we will be heard." Barbara Mozingo, NAM

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SPECIAL ALERT ! MEMBERSHIP RESALE SCHEME — AGAIN —

Beware of unscrupulous sales tactics of some campground membership resellers. We have had several complaints from people across the country about campground membership "Resellers". They have again started canvassing campground membership owners with an offer to sell their membership for them.

The catch is that they want money "up-front", as much as \$250 - \$650 and more, to list the membership for sale. This scheme seems to intensify each Spring. Most of these memberships never get sold. This is simply a grab for the "up-front" money.

Favorite targets are people who were once members of campgrounds that have gone bankrupt or are in financial trouble. The companies get lists of members or former members and use that as a list of sales leads. Victims are lured by the prospect that they might salvage some kind of value for what would otherwise be a worthless membership that cost them thousands of dollars.

The sales tactics of these companies are slick, compelling, and aggressive. DON'T GET HOOKED by the scam artists. If they are so good at selling memberships, why don't they get their fee from the proceeds of the sale?

Be alert - Contact your friends - Spread the word...

Dan Hopper, Chmn, NAM

CAMPGROUND 'MARKETEER' SENTENCED TO 78 YEARS

Denver Large, former owner of Mississippi Pines RV park in Mississippi, was sued by the State of Mississippi for the Sale of Unregistered Securities, Security Fraud by Misrepresentation, and Violation of the Mississippi RICO Act. The Court found him guilty in an order signed March 9, 2001. Mr. Large was sentenced to serve a term of one (1) year in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections on each Count of the indictment (for a total of 78 years), and pay restitution totaling \$562,000.00, to his victims, or their estates if they are deceased and pay all Court costs. The entire...

(SEE PAGE 2 - CAMPGROUND)

COLLECTION AGENCY SCHEME GETS 'BUSTED' — Refunds Money —

A former member of TAI was contacted by a "collection company" last year, Allied Data in Texas, and told that he still owed \$750 on his membership contract in the bankrupt Thousand Adventures, Inc. They told him, however, that if he would just pay \$500, they would call it even. You and I know that such a claimed debt at this stage of the game is unfair and most probably fraudulent!

The 'victim' contacted us (NAM) and we contacted Mr. Napier, the class-action attorney for former members of TAI. He in turn contacted Allied Data and convinced them that it was in their best interest to refund the money.

Allied sent a check for \$250 to the victim claiming that the (See Page 3 – COLLECTION COMPANY BUSTED)

SHOULD YOU JOIN A CAMPING CLUB?

Yes, if you do it for the right reasons.

What are the benefits?

- Typically, there are more and a greater variety of organized recreational activities.
- You are more likely to meet old friends that you have met in other campgrounds.
- Make sure your membership contract specifies what happens if you decide you want to cancel your membership?
- What happens if the campground goes bankrupt? (Why should you believe that won't happen?**) Get any statements you make your purchase decision on – in writing.

(Continued on Page 3 – JOIN A CAMPGROUND?)

NAM HAS A MASCOT

He is a caricature of a motorhome. He is named after his uncle, a British motor home named "Harvee". The British, you know, don't pronounce the leading "H". Our mascot is named "Arvee".

The problem is, we don't have a picture of him... Can you help? If you can find or draw some pictures of what you think 'Arvee' might look like, that we can have, we will try to find an appropriate way to express our gratitude.

'Arvee' is an older, grandfatherly fellow. He is kind and wise. He is also very friendly and fun loving — UNLESS you pick on one of his friends. Then he can be downright mean and intimidating. His hobbies are cooking, fishing, boxing, doing genealogy research, and sight-seeing.

Please mail your drawings/pictures to our address on the last page of this newsletter. Thank you. — dan

— Please —
Reproduce and Distribute
Copies of this Newsletter

**CAMPGROUND 'MARKETEER' SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS PROBATION
or
78 YEARS IN PRISON IF HE VIOLATES PROBATION**

period of incarceration SUSPENDED pending successful completion of a probationary period of five (5) years. Any period of incarceration is to be served under the provisions of Mississippi Code Section 47-5-138. Any period of incarceration that is suspended is to be served under the following terms and conditions:

Defendant shall:

- (a) Commit no offense against the laws of this or any other state of the United States, or the laws of the United States;
- (b) Avoid injurious or vicious habits and persons and places of disreputable or harmful character;
- (c) Report to the Mississippi Department of Corrections as directed by it;
- (d) Permit the Field Supervisor (Probation officer) to visit the defendant at home or elsewhere;
- (e) Work faithfully at suitable employment so far as possible;
- (f) Remain within a specified area, to-wit: State of Mississippi and the United States of America, unless accepted for supervision by another state and/or approved by the Mississippi Department of Corrections;
- (g) Support his dependents, if any;
- (h) Possess or consume no alcoholic beverages or mood altering drugs, and possess no firearm or other deadly weapon;
- (i) Pay required fee during each month of probation, by money order, to the Mississippi Department of Corrections;
- (j) Submit, as provided in Section 47-5-603 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, or applicable statutes of other state where he may be transferred for supervision, to any type of breath, saliva, or urine chemical analysis test, the purpose of which is to detect the possible presence of alcohol or substance prohibited or controlled by any law of the State of Mississippi or the United States, or to tests recommended by the defendant's Probation Officer;
- (k) Participate in any recognized program available and recommended by his Field Officer;
- (l) Defendant shall pay his restitution and costs, as set out above at the rate of \$5,000.00 per month for 12 months beginning thirty (30) days after sentencing and one final or 13th payment of the balance of the restitution set out herein above or \$502,000.00, the total restitution ordered herein being \$562,000.00. It be the order of the Court that the entire amount of restitution be paid within 13 months of sentencing, All cost and restitution payments are to be made through the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Pearl River County, Mississippi. The defendant has agreed not to and the court orders that he shall not file bankruptcy or take any other action which would hinder or prevent the payment of the above stated and ordered restitution payments. The Court orders that a copy of this order of Conviction shall be placed among the Land Records of the Chancery Clerk of Pearl River County, Mississippi to evidence that the defendant has agreed that the ordered restitution and that the copy of

this order constitutes a lien on any real property or personal property owned by the defendant in this county and the proceeds therefrom and further that the lien shall apply to any real property, personal property, funds, or other proceeds due to the defendant from the pending bankruptcy in Texas which concerns the Mississippi Pines property. The Court would not have suspended the defendant's prison sentence except for there presentation of the defendant that he could pay the restitution asset out herein and the defendants agreement and his acknowledgment that inability to pay the restitution set out herein above would not be reason or defense or excuse not to revoke the defendants sentence herein and that he waived any such defense or excuse against revocation in this matter;

- (m) Defendant shall not be out in the public after the hours of 11 o'clock p.m. through 6 o'clock a.m., unless it pertains to his employment.
- (n) Defendant shall not engage in the sale of securities or real property or time shares or other interests in real property except what may be needed to carry out this court order.

The violation of any one of the above enumerated conditions shall violate the terms and conditions of the defendant's Probation and the Court shall have the authority to revoke the defendant from Probation and remand the defendant into the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections to serve all of the remaining years left on the defendant's seventy-eight (78) year sentence.

SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED

on this the 9th day of March, 2001.

CIRCUIT JUDGE Michael R. Eubanks

Case No: 9794-2

So who cares if he violates his probation or fails to make the required payments?

According to a local Mississippi newspaper, the investigation was conducted by Gordon Kennedy, Securities Division of the Mississippi Secretary of State, Special Assistant Attorney General, Jean Vaughn of the Mississippi Attorney Generals' Office and Captain John Miller of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Mississippi Highway Patrol, Rickey Rawls and District Attorney Buddy McDonald, Phil Solomon, and Darlene Sullivan.

*This newsletter is provided for information and educational purposes by the
National Association for Members (NAM)*

VOPNFORD TRIAL RESCHEDULED

The tax evasion trial of David Thor Vopnford, former owner of Thousand Adventures, Inc. (TAI), originally scheduled for April 2 of this year, has been rescheduled for June 19, 2001 in Omaha, Nebraska.

CAMPERS CLUB OF AMERICA (CCA) CONCERN !!

We are concerned that CCA is reported to be withholding refunds of money owed to some members. They are reportedly offering "Extensions of the term of membership" - for LIFETIME DUES PAID members in lieu of those refunds.

Are these isolated cases or is CCA headed for the same kind of financial difficulty that other camping clubs that sold "Lifetime Dues Paid" memberships have demonstrated?

Keep us posted.

(Continued from Page 1)

JOIN A CAMPGROUND?

You can save money buying into a membership CG — but "only" if you use your membership privileges a "lot" more than the average member; you often travel to where the affiliated CG's are; they have space available when you want it; and you like the space they provide.

Don't over estimate the actual number of days per month that you will use the facilities in the future. Especially check to see what site fees and annual dues or maintenance fees are.

Membership camping, contrary to the claims of every marketer/promoter that we have heard, is *not* a way to save money while camping. When you consider all of the associated costs, it is more expensive.***

Make sure YOU are one of the ones who will benefit before spending your money.

If the outfit you are considering is on the up and up, you have to ask what the benefit is to YOU and YOUR lifestyle.

You MAY be one of the folks for whom they're actually a "good deal" - but don't join for the wrong reasons.

** Notice we are not working the issue of the common financial failures in that industry — that's a risk question, not a cost matter. (A common life span, from birth to bankruptcy, for many of membership camping schemes, is 3 to 5 years.)

*** The only way a membership CG can stay afloat at \$4-6/night (for example) is to rake in the up-front money and annual fees from those who do not use the sites a lot. In many cases, annual fees exceed what you pay for an equivalent number of nights in pay-as-you-go CGs. It costs just as much to build, staff and maintain a "membership" CG as it does for a pay-as-you-go place with equal facilities. It follows that only those who use the privileges a "lot" can actually "save".

— ATTENTION — FORMER TAI MEMBERS

If anyone has demanded money from you since March, 1997 based on your old TAI membership but you do not want anything to do with them — we think we can help — especially if you had to send money to get them to leave you alone.

ASAP, send copies of the bills, letters, memos for record, etc., and copies of cancelled checks or other evidence that you paid them money to: Mr. Douglas H. Napier, Napier, Wolf & Napier, 607 8TH ST., Ft. Madison, IA 52627.

We think this kind of activity by them is fraudulent and needs to be stopped. We also think that the money must be returned to members.

IF YOU WANT HELP
— DO IT NOW —
WHAT "YOU" DO COUNTS!

(Continued from Page 1)

COLLECTION COMPANY BUSTED

rest of the money had already been sent to their client, an associate of Mr. Cloud in Texas.

The victim cashed the check then wrote a letter to Allied stating that they still owed him an additional \$250. He conceded that Allied may have to try to recover THEIR money from Mr. Cloud's associate, but THEY, Allied Data, were the ones that took his money and THEY still owed him the remaining \$250. He expressed in his letter, his eagerness to complain to the Attorneys General of Texas and Ohio, the BBB, the Federal Trade Commission, and anyone else that may be able to help him. He was absolutely prepared to do just that...

He got a phone call from Allied a few days later. He told them that he wrote them a letter explaining the problem and that he expected a reply in writing or a check for the balance that they owed him - THEN HE HUNG UP... He didn't give them a chance to make any undocumented claims or threats...

Two days later he got a check in the mail for the balance.

No letter; no explanation.

The hero in this story:

Mr. Douglas Napier, Esq.,

Class Action Attorney for former TAI members.

The targeted victim was an 80 year old former member of TAI.

Seniors appear to be a favorite target for the 'Marketeers' and scam artists.

— Be Alert — Spread the word —

Pass it on so that your friends don't become victims of the 'Marketeers' and scam artists.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MEMBERS (NAM)

NAM was organized to advocate for ALL people who use campground resorts, condominiums, and timeshares. We want to stabilize and improve the rights members should have in their contracts. Many of us, speaking with one voice can make things change for the better. NAM is that voice. We will work with government agencies, campground resort owners/developers, and others to stabilize, improve, and enforce, the rights we get in our contracts.

There is no fee for our newsletters nor any service we provide. We do, however, depend on donations from people who believe in what we are doing to help with our expenses. We are registered with the government as a nonprofit organization and your donations are tax deductible.

You can help. Join the NAM — Make a Difference Send us the following information, it will not be provided to any non-government organization and will not be used for commercial purposes by anyone:

Note: The NAM may "not" obligate you in any way to pay money for any purpose without your explicit consent.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

email address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

I am interested in supporting the NAM. I want to:

- Receive the NAM newsletter.
- Reproduce/distribute my copy of the newsletter.
- Make a donation to support NAM activities.
I am enclosing a check for \$ _____
- Report on issues in my state. State: _____
- Attend hearings in my state.
- Join a state team.

We also want your comments and suggestions.

____(Attach your comments and suggestions.)____

Thank you,
Dan Hopper, Chmn

Please send this information to:

Secretary/Treasurer, NAM
4740 Silver Oak Street
Dayton, Ohio 45424-4650

Get in touch with us:

INTERNET SITE: <http://www.natlassoc.com>

eMail Address: chmn@natlassoc.com

Voice Nr: (937) 236-2882

Get the newsletter: (No other cost.)

Send us 5 or 6 Self-addressed, Stamped, size #10 (Business Size) Envelopes.

NAM PUBLISHES A COOKBOOK

We are publishing a cookbook called the

“RV Kitchen Companion”

This may be the last cookbook you will ever need...

We hope to have it back from the printer in a couple of weeks. It will be distributed nationally and used to raise funds to help pay some of the expenses of the NAM.

We will send a copy of it as our way of saying thank you to everyone who donates \$6 or more to the NAM. One dollar is for postage. Remember that your donations to the NAM are tax deductible.

Send your donations to:

National Association for Members (NAM)
4740 Silver Oak Street
Dayton, OH 45424-4650

No individual receives compensation of any kind from this effort. All donations are used to help the NAM work toward its goals. (See the column on the left ‘What is the NAM’.)

How can we stop fraud and protect the rights of campground members?

We want your ideas and your support. Send us a letter, email, or anything else that you think might help.

This can be important to you, your neighbor, and your children.

We want your input.

OHIO COMMITTEE MEETING FOR MAY

The regular meeting of the Ohio Members’ Committee will be the third Wednesday, 7:00 PM at a NEW LOCATION. This month it will be at the China Buffet. It is located near the intersection of Needmore and Valley streets in Dayton near Huber Heights (Harshman Station).

Call Norma Hopper, (937) 236-2882, for more details. Let us know if you plan to attend so we can reserve seating for you.

*Send us some drawings ASAP
of what you think our mascot,
Arvee, might look like, and if
they are selected we will use
them in our cookbook and
newsletters.*