



# SATURDAY NEWS

2026 SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

» SECTION A - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026



## SCIF Sables

Ladies Rock at Conention

SECTION B



Country music star Rhett Akins played for SCI members at the Ryman Auditorium on Thursday evening.

# HISTORIC RYMAN HOSTS HUNTERS

## Top Performers Play For Safari Club International

SEE STORY, PAGE A2



## Night of the Hunters

Top Hunters Get Prestigious Awards at Ryman

Page3A



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# Historic Ryman Hosts Hunters

## Top Performers Play For Safari Club International



Hundreds of SCI members and friends on Thursday evening filed into the Ryman Auditorium — the Mother Church of Country Music — to see who won top hunting awards, participate in auctions and hear some of the best Country music anywhere.

After major awards were presented and amazing auctions sold, Grand Ole Opry members took the stage to rousing applause and standing ovations.

First, Maggie Rose tugged on the heartstrings of all the mothers in the audience with her touching ballad “Cocon” about her 10-month-old son.

Rhett Atkins took the stage next and brought down the house with his hit “That Ain’t My Truck” and a famous song he co-wrote with Luke Bryan, “Huntin,’ Fishin,’ Lovin’ Every Day,” dedicated to all the hunters in the room.

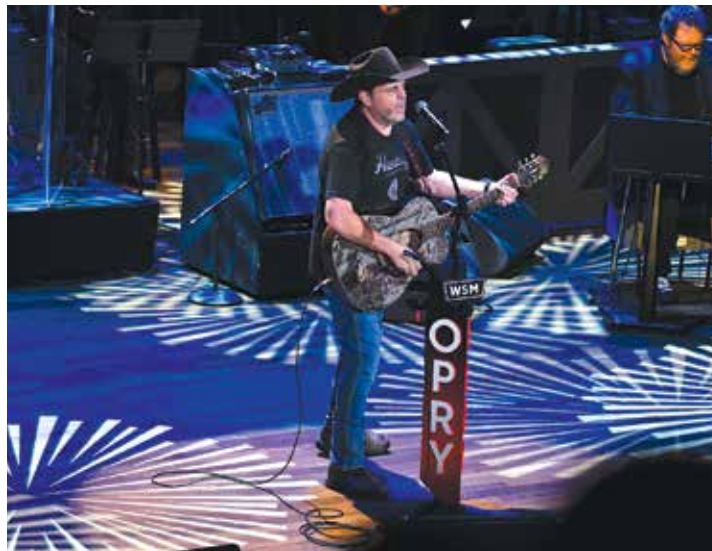
The Ryman Auditorium was originally built as a church in 1892. It then became the home of the Grand Ole Opry radio broadcast from 1943 until March 1974. During this era, the Mother Church of Country Music hosted the live WSM radio show, featuring legends like Loretta Lynn, Johnny Cash and Roy Acuff.

This is the second year SCI has hosted a Night at the Ryman.

Hardcore bowhunter Chris Janson was next with his hunting- and fishing-related songs such as “Buy Me A Boat” and “Good Vibes.” Janson also sang a tribute to the veterans in the audience when he belted out “This Flag.” He also talked a lot about hunting in Tennessee and even sang a song with his young son, Jesse, who holds the Tennessee youth archery whitetail record at 191 inches.

Jon Pardi, known for “Dirt on My Boots,” and other hits, headlined the evening with his straight-forward, deep country style.

SCI ambassador Nick Hoffman and his wife, Natalie Murphy, also played during the evening’s event.



# Hunting Achievements Honored

## Hunters Take Center Stage At The Fabled Ryman Auditorium



Crowning Achievement Award winners were, from left, Jeff Demaske, Vlachoslav Gorb, Alexey Kim, John Landgraf and Scott Swasey,



Rodney Perreira, left, receives the North American Professional Hunter of the Year award.



Fourth Pinnacle Award winners were, from left, Vanessa Falk, Luke Gerhart, Carlos Mondragon, Matt Muns and Maj. Roger Oerter.



Zenith Award winners were, from left, Vanessa Falk, Luke Gerhart, Jack Laws, Matt Muns, Maj. Roger Oerter and Bob Wilson.



Johnny du Plooy, left, receives the International Professional Hunter of the Year award.



Tyler Daniels, Record Book & World Hunting Awards Chair, right, presents the World Hunting and Conservation Award to Jeff Demaske.



Jaime Diaz-Torre, center, receives the World Conservation and Hunting Award.



Brittany Hosmer Longoria accepts the International Hunting Award for her late husband Ricardo Longoria.



Greg Oliver, center, receives the World Conservation and Hunting Award.



P. Troy White, center, receives the World Conservation and Hunting Award.



Rick Frazier, center, receives the World Conservation and Hunting Award.



The Methuselah Award went to Ira Frye.



SCI President Jeff Meyerl, left, and Tyler Daniels, right, present the World Conservation and Hunting Award to Russell Brines.



Deron Millman, center, receives the World Conservation and Hunting Award.



Larry Day accepts the World Hunting Award.



# See Beyond the Bush MERGER LRF XT50

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# Win A Caribou Hunt With Jim Shockey

Enter for your chance to win an unforgettable caribou hunt this October in the Yukon with noted outdoorsman Jim Shockey at his personal camp.

This exclusive trip offers breathtaking wilderness, world class hunting opportunities, and a once in a lifetime experience alongside one of the most recognized figures in the outdoor community.

Every entry directly supports SCI's Political Action Committee, SCI PAC, which fuels efforts to back members of Congress and candidates who champion science-driven wildlife conservation and the rights of hunters across the country.

The raffle entry is \$100 per ticket. For two entries and an SCI Pin, the cost is \$250. For three raffle entries, a Polo shirt and a pin, the cost is \$500. The Premium Tier entry is \$1,000 for all of the above, plus 10 raffle tickets.

Travel, airfare, and gratuities are not included. Arrive Oct. 3 in Whitehorse, Yukon. Layover day on Oct. 4; bush flight Oct. 5, and hunt on Oct. 6-12. Fly out Oct. 13.



Yukon is one of Jim Shockey's favorite places in the world, and you hunt from his personal camp if you win. You'll also be supporting SCI's advocacy efforts.



Scan the QR code for more info or visit [pay.sci-pac.org](http://pay.sci-pac.org).

# Another Creedmoor? Hornady's .25



The .25 fills out the line with a screamer of a bullet.

Hornady recently released a new Creedmoor cartridge, the .25 Creedmoor for hunting and long-distance target shooting.

The new Creedmoor slides in between 6mm and 6.5mm Creedmoors already on the market. The .25 Precision Hunter ammo is loaded with a 128-grain bullet, giving it more weight than the 6mm bullets, often loaded with a 103-grain bullet, yet less recoil than the heavier 6.5, often loaded to 143- to 160-grains.

The new .25-caliber 128-grain ELD-X bullet has a higher G1 ballistic coefficient — 633 — than either the 103- or 143-grains in the other Creedmoors.

From a 24-inch barrel test gun, the .25 Creedmoor delivers a 2,850 fps from the muzzle and 2,166 at 500 yards, according to Hornady.

Hornady recommends these cartridges for medium game, animals from about 50 to 300 pounds.

Check out the Hornady's new products at booth 715.

# All About Accuracy Sig Sauer Cross Magnum



Sig Sauer's Cross Magnum Sawtooth has a 24-inch Proof Research carbon fiber barrel.



Sig Sauer's Cross Magnum Sawtooth is a long-range chassis gun with a precision Proof Research carbon fiber barrel.

This rig is built to maximize the bullet's speed, so it comes only in a 24-inch barrel length. It's chambered in 7mm PRC, .300 PRC and .300 Win. Mag. and has a two-stage adjustable match trigger.

Like other Cross Series rifles, it has a folding stock and a unique ARCA and M-LOK rail system 360 degrees around the barrel and 20 MOA Pic rail.

The rifle is just over 8 pounds with its 6-round double-stack steel detachable magazine.

Sig Sauer is at booth 901.

## AUSTRALIAN BUFFALO HUNTERS



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OLD STYLE SAFARIS - ARNHAM LAND



The Hogue Knives' new Mysto Wood everyday-carry drop point is a quality field-dressing and skinning knife at a competitive price.

# Hogue Debuts Mysto Wood Knife

Hogue Knives' new Mysto Wood features a Maple Valley Richlite frame, with a laser-engraved topographic pattern inspired by the geographic origin of Hogue Inc. on the Central Coast of California.

The everyday-carry knife is made to be a precision-built folder while remaining competitively priced. A 3.4-inch drop point CPM MagnaCut steel blade sports an all-new black stonewash finish and boasts premium cutting power.

At 2.5 ounces, the Mysto maintains an

extremely light weight without compromising strength, culminating in the ideal EDC.

Also at its booth, Hogue is displaying its Flex Fillet knife. The exceedingly thin, curved blade profile allows the knife to glide freely through scales and skin, minimizing waste and maximizing flavor.

Hogue knives are made in the USA with domestic materials and are backed by three generations of manufacturing expertise.

Visit booth 3209 or hogueknives.com.

## Veterans Breakfast Honors Those Who Served



Trijicon will be the sponsor of this year's Veterans Breakfast at 8 a.m. at the Omni Hotel.

SCI is pleased to honor the men and women who have served our country at the Veterans Breakfast. This special event begins at 8 a.m. at the Omni Hotel.

Veterans are invited to enjoy complimentary admission and breakfast, with all members welcome to attend.

Tickets are available online and at the Veterans Breakfast. This event was made

possible through the generous support of Trijicon.

Each year, SCI Foundation and the SCIF Veterans Committee recognize chapters that have gone above and beyond in sponsoring activities for veterans and their families.

These awards are proudly presented during the Veterans Breakfast at the SCI Convention.

## CARLO CALDESI AWARD BY HOLLAND & HOLLAND

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2010  HOSEIN BASHIRI & BOCHI Marco Polo Argali	2011  MAYE E. FARRER Mountain Nyala	2012  LORAN CAMERON East Caucasian Tur	2013  MAYE E. FARRER Central African Giant Eland	2014  HOSEIN BASHIRI & BOCHI Marco Polo Argali
2015  DANIEL FERRER & BOCHI Snow Sheep	2016  MAYE E. FARRER Dall Sheep			2017  MAYE E. FARRER Gobi Argali
2018  MAYE E. FARRER Mountain Nyala				
2019  LORAN CAMERON East Caucasian Tur	2020  LORAN CAMERON Altay Argali	2024  LORAN CAMERON East Caucasian Tur	2025  LORAN CAMERON Bukharan Markor	

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2026



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# Everything You Need To Know About The SCI Convention

Welcome To The Safari Club International Convention.

SCI is the global leader in defending the freedom to hunt and promoting sustainable use wildlife conservation. Its annual Convention is a cornerstone event for the hunting and outdoor industry, featuring more than 900 exhibitors, live and silent auctions, educational workshops and major networking opportunities.

In its 54th year, this promises to be the benchmark in the industry for all hunters, collectors of fine firearms and art for any outdoors enthusiast. The SCI Convention is the place to find just about anything a hunting family could ever dream of having.



For 2026, the SCI Convention is embracing even more of the city of Nashville, extending past the Music City Center to explore the heart of the downtown scene. These moments of exploration in famed buildings like the Ryman Auditorium will create a once-in-a-lifetime memory for all attendees.

The SCI Convention is truly a place where all hunters are welcomed, embraced and celebrated as true conservationists. Nearly 18,000 attendees are expected.

See old friends and meet new ones. Reminisce about past adventures and plan some more for the future. Welcome. Enjoy.

## SHOW DATES

February 18-21, 2026  
Music City Center  
201 Rep. John Lewis Way S,  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

## REGISTRATION HOURS

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 18  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 20  
8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21

## SHOW HOURS

9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Feb. 18-21  
The world's finest professional hunters, outfitters, gunmakers and artists feature nearly 1,000 extraordinary exhibits over 182,400 square feet of space at the annual Convention. It's truly the Ultimate Sportsman's Marketplace.

## NIGHT EVENTS

### Tuesday

SCI Foundation Conservation  
Leadership Award Gala sponsored by Beretta,  
Omni Hotel,  
Broadway Ballroom  
6-10:30 p.m.  
A black-tie gala

### Wednesday

Boots, Beer & Broadway at  
Jelly Roll's Goodnight Nashville  
6:30-9:30 p.m.  
Nashville "Night Out" attire

### Thursday

Night at the Ryman at the  
Legendary Ryman Auditorium  
VIP entry, 5 p.m. General admission, 5:30 p.m.  
Attire is Music City cocktail

### Friday

Dinner, Auction & Entertainment  
at the Music City Center Grand Ballroom, Level 4  
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.  
Evening elegance attire

### Saturday

Dinner, Auction & Entertainment  
at the Music City Center Grand Ballroom, Level 4  
Doors open at 6 p.m.  
Black tie gala

### Sunday

Grand Slam Club/  
Ovis Dinner Awards Banquet  
at the Music City Center Grand Ballroom, Level 4  
at 6 p.m.  
Music City cocktail or gala

## TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING

For parking at Music City Center, there is a garage located at 701 Demonbreun Street. Primary access is through P3 at the intersection of 7th Ave. and Demonbreun Street, with auxiliary access — P1 and P2 — along 6th Ave. The lots charge from \$25 for parking up to five hours. Overnight charge is \$45. No trailers are allowed at this parking site.

## SCOOTER RENTAL

Pick up scooters at the Level 1 Foyer near Room 101A in the Music City Center

Hours of operation, 12-5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

Visit [scootaround.com/en/safariclub](http://scootaround.com/en/safariclub) for more information.

## EVENT & REGISTRATION FAQS

**Q:** How do I get my tickets?

**A:** You can pick up your tickets at the registration counter on Level 2 or skip past the lines and use one of our kiosks. For kiosks: Just scan the barcode that you received by email on Feb. 9, and your tickets will print in seconds. If you still need to buy tickets, go to [convention.safariclub.org](http://convention.safariclub.org), where you will also see options to purchase evening events as well. Please note that dinner tickets are required for evening event entry.

**Q:** Can I bring a guest?

**A:** Yes, each active member may bring only one guest. Guests don't need to be members but must have a paid registration.

**Q:** Do I need to be a member to attend?

**A:** Yes, the SCI Convention is a members-only event. You must have an active SCI membership to attend. Those who want to join SCI can sign up at the convention center.

**Q:** What if I lose or forget my badge?

**A:** Lost or forgotten badges are subject to a \$75 replacement fee per badge. Lanyards will be available at the registration counter on Level 3 and elsewhere around the Convention.

## SEMINARS

Check [convention.safariclub.org](http://convention.safariclub.org) or the app to see the many free seminars taking place all four days.

## GOING, GOING... AUCTIONS!

This year's lineup includes:

- Live Auction at Goodnight Nashville on Wednesday
- Signature auction night at the historic Ryman Auditorium on Thursday
- Advocacy Night with special guests and live Yacht Rock on Friday
- Evening Gala featuring Little Big Town on Saturday. Details of evening events and tickets are at [convention.safariclub.org](http://convention.safariclub.org)

While auctions are going on in person in Nashville, you can also go online to bid on the same items. Visit [onlinehuntingauctions.com/Safari-Club-International\\_ae1906](http://onlinehuntingauctions.com/Safari-Club-International_ae1906) or scan the QR code below to register and see what's on the auction block.

Proceeds from all events directly support SCI and SCI Foundation mission programs in hunting advocacy, wildlife conservation and humanitarian services.

Scan for online auction registration.



## DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY!

Make things a breeze by downloading the 2026 SCI Convention app on your smart phone or device by going to the App Store or Google Play.



More information is available at [convention.safariclub.org](http://convention.safariclub.org) or download the 2026 SCI Convention app from App Store or Google Play for the latest updates and events.

# Blaser Brings New Rifles To Convention



The new Blaser R8 Professional 2.0 is the latest iteration of Blaser's iconic straight-pull rifle and features new performance additions like an optimized vertical pistol grip.



New versions of the classic, The Mauser 98 Das Original will be on display at the Blaser booth 1513.

Blaser Group will display two new rifles – the state-of-the-art Blaser R8 Professional 2.0 straight-pull rifle and the new Mauser 98 Das Original bolt-action rifle — at the Safari Club International Convention.

Stop by booth 1513 to meet with the team and see all of Blaser Group's new products, including the R8 Silence barrel with integrated silencer and the award-winning Sauer 505 bolt-action rifle.

London-based John Rigby & Co. will have its ultra-premium bespoke rifles on display in booth 507 nearby, and Blaser Safaris will be booking hunts at its world-class properties in Namibia, Hungary, Scotland and the Czech Republic, among other countries.

“We are excited to share our newest rifles – the Blaser R8 Professional 2.0 and Mauser 98 Das Original – with SCI members during the show,” said Jason Evans, CEO, Blaser Group.

The R8 Professional 2.0 is the latest iteration of Blaser's iconic straight-pull rifle and features numerous performance additions that take it to a higher level.

“The new Mauser 98 Das Original is truly an opportunity for attendees to hold a piece of history in their hands,” said Evans.

The Blaser Group is the official U.S. importer for iconic German firearms brands Blaser, Mauser and J.P. Sauer as well as English gunmaker John Rigby & Co., Minox optics and Liemke Thermal Optics.



Jason Evans, CEO of the Blaser Group, shows one of the Das Original Mauser rifles in the Blaser/Mauser booth 1513. New this year and on display at the booth are the Das Original Mauser and Blaser R8 Professional 2.0 rifles.

## Riflescope, Binoculars Make Quite A Pair

### Steiner's High-Tech Combo Is Compact and Intuitive

Steiner's ePredator 8 Riflescope is impressive for what it packs into a 34-ounce scope. This 8X magnification scope has a 34mm tube yet is still a modest 34.46 ounces. Also aboard this 15-inch scope is a ballistic calculator that tells you where to move your illuminated reticle to an accurate aiming point.

This ePredator scope pairs via Bluetooth with Steiner's ePredator LRF 10x42 laser-rangefinding binos — that send range in yards or meters to the scope.

There is also a very smart head-up display inside the scope tube, so you don't have to pick your head up to check

your dial-to, distance and other factors.

The scope then provides real-time, mission-critical information such as bullet drop and environmental factors like air pressure and inclination.

You can fine-tune your setup and display by using the Steiner Connect app or pair it with the ePredator LRF. Of course, you'd have to set these up ahead of time and confirm them on the range.

The scope has an illuminated reticle in the shape of a cross with 11 brightness ranges on the parallax dial. But the scope is still effective without batteries. Since this is a rear-focal plane scope,

turn the mag ring to max power and you can use the E3 reticles and its windage holds.

But it's good to have options on a hunt. As any hunter knows, there are often surprises and it's good to have a Plan B.

A big take-away is that the ePredator 8 scope and the Predator 10x42 LRF binos make a great pair.

They synch easily, are made for each other, and help a hunter get on target quickly and shoot accurately, all through excellent glass.

See more Steiner optics at booth 1419.

— John Geiger



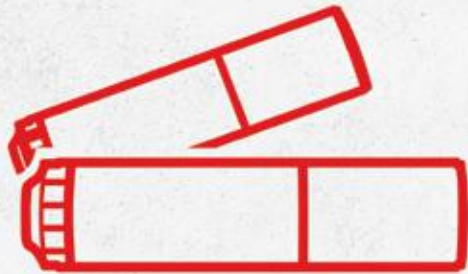
Steiner's new riflescope and laser-rangefinding binos work together to get a bead on distant targets quickly.



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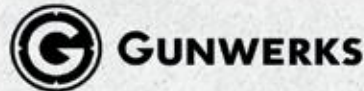


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# Eliminating The Shakes



By Andrew McKean

Given the proliferation of digital screens in traditional optics, it's refreshing to see Sig Sauer's pursuit of a different sort of electro-optics. The brand has invested heavily in its stabilized ZULU 6 binocular line. The outcome is ownership of a surprising vacant niche: high-magnification hand-held binoculars.

Conventional wisdom has held that binoculars with more than 10- or 12-power are hard to use without a tripod. The small shakes of the user's hands impart vibration to the image delivered by the binocular, making hand-held viewing fuzzy.

But the ZULU 6 employs an onboard gyroscope that cancels those shakes,

steadies the image and enables users to employ more magnification without a tripod or other support.

The result is that hunters can handheld 12-power, 15-power and even 18-power binoculars, giving them much more reach without worrying about distracting movement. It's the perfect bridge between traditional 8- and 10-power binoculars and lower-magnification spotting scopes.

The practical advantage is that users of the ZULU 6, mainly Coues' deer, mountain sheep and open-country mule deer hunters, can carry less gear in the field but have all the game-spotting advantages of high-mag binoculars.

See the Sig Sauer' latest optics at booth 901.

# A Part Of History

## Buy A Beretta, Get A Commemorative 500th Anniversary Medal

Anyone who buys a Beretta firearm in 2026 will receive a keepsake of Beretta's 500th anniversary medal. The commemorative medal is designed in partnership and manufactured by the Istituto Poligrafico and Zecca dello Stato, the Italian State Mint, and it honors the world's oldest firearms manufacturer and its enduring "Made in Italy" heritage.

The medal features the Beretta 500th Anniversary logo on one side and the historic Beretta Villa on the other. It is presented in a custom display package designed to showcase and preserve the medal. It's available to customers who purchase a new Beretta firearm during 2026 and complete warranty registration following purchase.

Created to mark this historic milestone, the Beretta 500-Year Anniversary Medal represents a timeless legacy and enduring connection between Beretta and the generations of hunters, shooters and outdoor enthusiasts who have shaped the brand's past and will define its future.

For complete program information, visit [beretta500.com/en/be-part-of](http://beretta500.com/en/be-part-of).



Buy a new Beretta in 2026, and the company will give you a commemorative 500th anniversary medal.



The commemorative medal is designed in partnership and manufactured by the Istituto Poligrafico and Zecca dello Stato, the Italian State Mint. It honors the world's oldest firearms manufacturer and its enduring "Made in Italy" heritage.

## 39<sup>th</sup> CONVENTION S.C.I. ITALIAN CHAPTER



June 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> 2026 Rome

Sheraton Rome Parco de' Medici



DEAD LINE FOR DONATIONS MARCH 15<sup>th</sup> 2026  
DEAD LINE FOR RESERVATIONS MAY 10<sup>th</sup> 2026

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CARLO CALDESI AWARD  
by HOLLAND & HOLLAND



ITALIAN CHAPTER AWARD



John Banovich, Boss, Limited Edition Giclée Canvas, Studio Edition - 50h x 46w in (detail)

Booth  
1745

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# Luxury Expedition Vehicles Are Show-Stoppers

EarthRoamer creates luxury expedition vehicles to take on any kind of adventure. The company will be displaying several vehicles at the SCI Convention, including the latest version, the EarthRoamer LTx.

This latest iteration of the LT line is the most advanced to date. It's built on the same Ford F-550 chassis as other LTs but also has a new level of power, views and other upgrades.

The new floorplan offers a 270-degree view through dual-pane stained-glass windows and adds more rear storage space.

Also on display will be the new EarthRoamer SX 2.0, which is similar to the LTx but is mounted on a Chevrolet Silverado 6500HD 4x4 chassis.

The SX 2.0 now also has a 24-volt electric system, improved air conditioning and charges faster from both the alternator and solar.

Boasting a powerful and reliable Duramax 6.6L turbodiesel V8 engine and Allison 6-speed transmission, you have the power that you need to redefine your adventures with confidence.

Check out EarthRoamer at booth 3002.

The LTx will be on display outside of the Music City Center near the intersection of 8th Ave S. and Demonbreun Street, across from the JW Marriott Nashville.

Visit [earthroamer.com](http://earthroamer.com).



EarthRoamer has two new vehicles, the LTx (left) and SX. The LTx will be on display outside the Music City Center near the intersection of 8th Ave S. and Demonbreun Street. Inside the Exhibition Hall, EarthRoamer's booth is 3002.

**RUGGED X**  
Expeditions  
with  
J. Alain Smith

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