

Why Join the Georgia Mountaineers or any other FMCA Chapter?

First of all, why even belong to FMCA? The reason is simple, the benefits of FMCA membership are too numerous to mention here, and are in fact, listed in each issue of the magazine and at FMCA.com, see <http://www.fmca.com>. As for FMCA, the magazine alone is worth the price of FMCA membership. FMCA membership also includes many intangible benefits as well. Among them are those associated with membership in a chapter and some of those are listed below.

Motorhome Use: As a member of FMCA, you have the opportunity to join one or more chapters within the association. Through your chapter membership, you likely will use your motorhome on a more consistent basis. Most local chapters hold regular monthly meetings or rallies. The Georgia Mountaineers Rally Schedule has a rally each month from February through November. You will find that frequent use of your motorhome to travel to such events actually helps prevent or even eliminate some mechanical problems. Nothing takes the place of regular maintenance, but frequent operation of the motorhome prevents seals and systems from deteriorating from lack of use. By joining an FMCA chapter and attending regular monthly gatherings, you will have reason to get your coach out on the road consistently, and you will find that those nagging little problems will appear less frequently. Plus, chapter members love to share solutions to problems. Many times when you have a problem, you will find someone in the chapter has already incurred the same problem and may know of a quick economical fix. Often times, conversations under the shade tree center around motorhome problems and maintenance. Whether it relates to repairs, battery care, winterizing, tires, or use of various RV products & accessories, there is a wealth of information to be exchanged.

Newsletters and Staying Informed: With the Georgia Mountaineers having a rally almost every month, you stay informed of Chapter and FMCA events. Our newsletter, The Mountaineer, is published after each local rally. So if you miss a rally, you can catch up from the newsletter. Also, each chapter has an elected National Director who attends the FMCA Area and International meetings. Not only does he or she represent our chapter as a voting member at those meetings, but keeps our membership informed as to FMCA business, events, and directions. Plus, our website <http://www.georgiamountaineers.org> contains a wealth of information. It includes our Rally Schedules, newsletters, governing documents; and, on the Members Area a complete chapter Directory of our members, photo galleries, and other pertinent chapter information.

Involvement: The opportunity to become involved is another great benefit of chapter membership. Each rally has Rally Hosts who plan and execute the Rally Agenda. Normally, different members serve as Rally Hosts each month. More senior members, who have served as Rally Hosts in the past, help newer members by having them serve as co-hosts with them. Also, the chapter does not run by itself. It takes a slate of elected and volunteer officers. Nothing is more rewarding than serving your chapter in one of the officer positions. Being involved gives you a sense of pride and purpose.

Broaden Perspectives: Another benefit of belonging to an FMCA chapter is the opportunity to learn different perspectives about the motorhome lifestyle. When you begin to hear how other people use their coaches and listen to them talk about their travels, a whole new world opens up before your eyes. Whether they were staying in nice RV parks, back woods campgrounds, or boon docking, motorhome owners love to share their experiences gladly tell you about places they have been, many of which you may never have thought of visiting. Many members have made extended travels all over the USA and Canada, and can provide helpful pointers for use in planning your trips. Chapter rallies may be held in various places that are new to you. If you look at our past Rally Schedules, you will see the Georgia Mountaineers have visited Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and various destinations in Georgia.

Friends and Fellowship: This is probably the greatest benefit of all. Chapter rallies provide a great way to meet other folks who have the same interest as you do. The various rally agendas include activities, e.g., pot luck dinners, eating out, campfires, games, & tours, that give you the chance to interact with other members. Not only is it fun, you will have the opportunity to build lifetime relationships and friends. Our chapter has a Sunshine Reporter to keep us informed of members who have had illnesses, injuries, or deaths in the family. Our members truly care about one another. Plus, we have a devotional on Sunday morning before our Rally ends and we all head for home or depart for other destinations.

So, don't you think it is time to look into joining a local chapter of FMCA? We, the Georgia Mountaineers, certainly invite you to come and visit with us at our rallies. See the other documents on our website such as Chapter Introduction, Benefits of Membership, and Visitor Rally Information. We look forward to meeting you.