

THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers chapter of FMCA

July 15 - 18, 2009

Happy Holiday RV Park – Cherokee, NC

Hosts: Willard & Sue Swanson and Don & Lois Hardison

Members attending: W&S Swanson, Hardisons, Carpenters, Barretts, Earleys, Eaves, Franklins, Dennys with Grandchildren Jordan & Grace, Fritsches, Longs, Bielemeiers, Seaverns, Jackson

Herbie & Elinor Wilson stayed in a motel and visited with us during the day Wednesday and for dinner that night.

**Guests: 2nd time, Tom & Cile Gierhahn and Carl & Wynette Stone
1st time, Jeff & Teresa Kelly, Rob & Mary Hicks, Walt & Marie Quick,
Nelson & Bonnie Fitzpatrick, Joe & Nancy Onda**

Dropping in to meet us were Kenny & Kathy Hayes of Franklin, NC

On Tuesday, many had already arrived and decided to go to Sylva for a Mexican meal. This was quite an experience. Have you ever been to an organic Mexican restaurant? We have! Although it took longer to determine what to order, since we had choices ranging from grilled goat, goat cheese, fried banana leaves for taco shells, and more, everyone seemed to enjoy what they got. No Cokes or Pepsi but they did have Blue Sky Ginger Ale and lots of wines.

Wednesday – the group decided to find a “real” Mexican restaurant so we went for lunch at Guayabitos in Bryson City. It was very good. By dinnertime, many more had arrived to enjoy the salad and dessert potluck. John Long welcomed the guests and we all introduced ourselves and told a little about us. We got a short rain shower afterwards and before card game time.

Thursday, we had a long storm during the night but only thick clouds and no rain this morning. After several calls to staff at Cataloochee and headquarters in Gatlinburg, we went to Cataloochee. By the time we got there and ready to eat our picnic lunch, the sun was shining and it was a beautiful day. After stopping at the overlook and taking photos of the clouds/fog hanging over some mountaintops, we toured the primitive campground restrooms then proceeded to the “former” Ranger Station where I (Lois) grew up. With full stomachs, we proceeded to the Palmer Methodist Chapel then Beech Grove School. On the way, we saw turkeys and the field next to the school was a grazing area for a small herd of 14 elk. After that, we went to the Caldwell House where we saw more turkeys and a black bear. Some people that were already watching the bear told us there was a very small cub in one of the trees where its mother was eating apples underneath. One of the turkeys kept getting closer and closer to the bear but was still alive when we left that area. On the drive back by the school, more elk were seen near the woods. Also, two

elk were in the hazelnut patch where we school kids used to spend some recess time. (A total of 25 elk, I believe.) My Park Ranger father used to show up many times while we were gathering those nuts and I learned about a year ago that he did that when he knew a bear was possibly in the area – and they love hazelnuts. After we came back across the mountain, several went to Waynesville and shopped or ate at Fat Buddies BBQ. Other entertainment was found at the casino, bingo games, or cards in the rec room, and some went to see Unto These Hills.

Friday, after a lazy morning, we went to the Jarrett House in Dillsboro for lunch. The food was very good and the service excellent. Back at the campground, we were sorry to learn that Walt & Marie Quick were having to return home due to the sudden death of their son-in-law. The Quick family is in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. The Kellys and Hicks also had to leave today; Mary Hicks had been sick for a couple of days. When we gathered to play cards, most all said they had been too full to eat any dinner. The afternoon had been spent at the Indian Festival, or casino, and some went to Maggie Valley to see The Chuck Wagon Gang Gospel Quartet at the Carolina Nights Dinner Theater.

Saturday was spent just visiting after various trips to Granny's Kitchen for breakfast. Of course, the casino was visited again and several more went to the Indian Festival after hearing about the fun had the day before. While enjoying the cooler-than-usual day, Kenny & Kathy Hayes dropped by to meet some of us. They had intended to camp with us but couldn't due to illness in the family. They plan to visit again. Dinner was at the Selu Garden Restaurant at Harrah's Hotel. While we played cards or sat around campsites, the campground provided music by a 4-piece band. They were very good and played lots of great songs we hadn't heard for a while. Great day altogether.

Sunday began with coffee and doughnuts. John Long announced that Carl & Wynette Stone are becoming members. We didn't have devotional because the campground provides a Sunday service.

Lois Hardison
Corresponding Secretary – Newsletter Editor

NEXT TWO RALLIES:

**August 19-22 Murphy NC Peace Valley Campground. Reservations required, phone: 1-828-838-6223. Directions: From Murphy go (N) on US-19 about 4.5 to 5 miles, just pass (mm) 24 going (N). Turn right onto Happy Valley Road. www.peacevalleycampground.com
Host: Chuck and Allene Conner Co-Host: James and Sara Ivy
A MEETING IS PLANNED.**

**September 23-26 Hiawassee Ga. Bald Mountain Campground. Reservations required, phone: 1-706-896-8896. Directions: From Jct of US-76 & GA-75/17, go NW 2.5 miles. Turn on GA-288. turn on Fodder Creek Road on the left go 3.5 miles, campground on left. www.baldmountainpark.com .
Host: George and Dorothy Silver**