

THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers chapter of FMCA

November 18 - 22, 2009
River Country Campground – Gadsden AL
Hosts: Horchers and Birts

Members camping: Ted & Martha Barrett, Bob & Eva Bielemeier, Jim & Karen Birt, Ed & Runette Bledsoe, Jerry & Dot Carpenter, Bill & Pat Denny, Ken & Dea Earley, Jerry & Laura Eaves, Al & Mary Holcomb, Dennis & Joyce Horcher, John & June Huffman, Mike & Judy Hughes, John & Sandra Long, Phil & Marilyn Salling, Janice Schell, George & Dorothy Silver, and Jack & Chris White.

Guests camping: First time visitors Sid & Jackie Benjamin from Sautee, Ken & Kathy Rabren from Duluth, Dave & Jenny Ellison from Birmingham AL, and second time visitors Chris & Stella Christopher from Dahlonega, Bob & Anita Pratt from Ellabelle, Bill & Gayle Smith from Madison, and David & Pat Werdin from Hayesville, NC. Plus, we had a special visit from Tom Eller, our FMCA National Vice President for Southeast Area, and his wife Lorna.

Monday morning for us began with a beautiful red sunrise across the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal in New Orleans and back over the Gulf of Mexico. And it was a smooth ride up I-59 across Mississippi and into Alabama. Early afternoon we arrived at River Country Campground to find that our Alaskan travelers, Jack and Chris, had just pulled in right before us. After registering, we setup on our campsites along Black Creek Lake. It wasn't long before Al and Mary arrived along with their friends Ken and Kathy. For dinner, it was off to the seniors buffet at Shoney's for some of us hungry folks. Later toward evening, Dennis and Joyce arrived and setup next to Jim's Lodge.

Tuesday morning brought rain, cloudy skies, and cooler weather. It also brought in more Georgia Mountaineers and campers. The Birts, Bledsoes, Carpenters, Huffmans, and second time visitors Bob and Anita Pratt arrived during the day. For dinner about half of us went to Villa Fiesta for a good Mexican meal. And later in the evening, it was cards and games in Jim's Lodge.

Wednesday morning brought about partly cloudy skies, still cooler weather, and the official beginning of the rally -- time to wear our name badges. Arriving during the day were the Bielemeiers, Dennys, Earleys, Eaves, Hughes, Sallings, and Schell along with visitors Sid and Jackie Benjamin, Chris and Stella Christopher, and Bill and Gayle Smith. During the afternoon it was Meet and Greet time in Jim's Lodge and everyone took turns introducing themselves. It was nice to learn a little about our visitors and I am sure nice for them to get to know a little about us. It was also the first time for many to see Jack sporting his handsome Alaskan beard.

John Huffman also began distribution of our directory updates and complete directory books for our new members. For dinner it was off to various places including the Fish Market. Later in the evening it was game time back at Jim's Lodge.

Thursday morning brought still cooler weather with a low of 37. However, it did not dampen attendance for a breakfast of muffins, fruit, juice, and coffee at Jim's Lodge. Everyone was to also bring their veggies for the Stone Soup along with their White Elephant gifts. As breakfast broke up, the hosts were busy with the beginnings of the Stone Soup to be served for dinner later in the day. Also arriving during the day were the Silvers and visitors David and Pat Werdin. Plus Janice's brother and sister-in-law, David and Jenny Ellison from Birmingham came in. During the day it was shopping for many and lunch at various places. One large group enjoyed a delicious meal at El Tapatio's down Rainbow Drive. Dinner was Stone Soup back at Jim's Lodge. It was not just soup, but a great big pot of **very delicious** soup made of various ingredients served with a large variety of cornbreads and a table full of desserts -- **Ummm Ummm Good!!!!**

After dinner it was time for fun and games. It all began with test drives of the *Wreckreational Vehicle* and tow car. The test drive began with hooking up the tow car and driving to the campground. After registering, it was time to unhook the tow car and having to back into Campsite #11. After the stay it was time to depart the campground by pulling out of the campsite, rehooking the tow car, heading up a steep mountain drive, taking a dead end trail and having to unhook the tow car and back out, before finally getting back on the road and reaching the final destination. Sounds easy, but it was done with the driver blindfolded and the spouse providing verbal directions. All that can be said is, "Thank God, no one had to dump the holding tanks." However, if anyone ever needs help maneuvering the RV, Jackie Benjamin is the one to get. **Just remember to turn left when she says turn right!**



The next game was *Pass the Ball*. It was sorta like musical chairs, but having to pass the ball from one person to another in a circle. It's amazing how many folks cannot stand on one leg just to hand off a ball to a person next to them. The third game pitted the men against the women in dressing one of their own in opposite attire and the women won hands down. The final game was *Locate Gadsden on the United States map*. This was a variation of Pin the Tail on the Donkey, but instead, required sticking your little motorhome on Gadsden while blindfolded. It's amazing how many motorhomes sunk in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Many were close, as they parked their RV in Georgia, southern Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee; but the winner was Dea Earley. And Ken has been saying all this time that she could not read a map or navigate?? After a lot of fun and many good laughs, the evening ended and it was time to retire back to our homes on wheels.



Friday morning brought forth a cool clear day with sun reflecting on the smooth surface of the lake. There wasn't much activity early as it seems most folks slept in a little later than usual. Later in the morning, some decided to have a light lunch at El Tapatío's, while others went downtown. Some just went shopping and skipped lunch. Mid afternoon we had the surprise arrival of Tom and Lorna Eller. They stopped by to visit while on their way back to Brooksville, FL from FMCA National in Cincinnati. Also, mid afternoon saw a gathering down by the lake with the swapping of tall tales and resolution of the world's woes. For dinner it was off to Top of the River and a great feast of seafood. Here it was very obvious that some of our visitors love to eat just as much as many of our long time members. After dinner it was back to Jim's Lodge for more Hand and Foot, Cribbage, and Joker.

Saturday morning was business meeting time. It was kicked off around 10:00 A.M. by John Long. After the reading of the minutes, we had the installation of New Officers, then back to normal business. Jack went over our Rally Schedule for next year, see the attachment. During the meeting, it was also announced that all four of our second time visitors had joined our Chapter. Bill and Gayle, Bob and Anita, Chris and Stella, and David and Pat, along with Liz Yarbrough (who submitted her application earlier), **WELCOME to the Georgia Mountaineers!** It was also decided to have gifts at the Christmas Luncheon, so each person needs to bring a gift, more information to follow. Later we had an address by Tom Eller, and the adjournment by John Huffman. A big Thank You to John Long and the other outgoing officers, and a Good Luck wish to our new incoming officers. Your new officers are listed below. After the meeting, Tom and Lorna departed for Brooksville and our group headed to Lucky's Buffet for lunch.

President --- John Huffman
Vice-President/Wagon Master --- Jack White
Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter Editor --- Lois Hardison
Recording Secretary --- Martha Barrett
Treasurer --- Judy Hughes
National Director --- Mike Hughes
Alternate National Director --- Don Blanchfield
Devotional Leader --- George Silver
Scrapbook Editor --- Allene Conner
Sheriff --- Bob Bielemeier
Sunshine Reporter --- Dorothy Silver

Following lunch some of the group headed in various directions for shopping, while others shared information and know-how about repairing or upgrading some of their motorhome features. Later after sunset, we were treated to a River Country world of beautiful Christmas decorations and lights. The lights were turned on for about an hour and brought everyone out to walk under the wonderment of the lights with their beautiful reflections on the water. It was then back to Jim's Lodge for ice cream and afterwards more Hand & Foot and Joker.



Sunday brought to a close another great rally. After coffee and donuts we had devotional led by George Silver. Then it was time to say our good byes and hit the road again. Except for our upcoming Christmas Luncheon, this was our last rally for the year. Sorta sad, but then we have next year's Rally Schedule ready. So get your calendar out and mark next year's rallies down for maximum attendance. And remember, we still need Rally Hosts. So be prepared to sign up for hosting a rally at the Christmas Luncheon. Again, our thoughts and prayers go out to our members and guests who could not make the rally or had to cancel at the last minute for various health or personal reasons. Next month is our Christmas Luncheon at The HoundsTooth Grill outside of Braselton -- hope to see you there.

*Ted Barrett
Substituting for Lois*

RALLY REMINDER:

Christmas Lunch – December 10 HoundsTooth Grill Braselton GA \$18 per person
Phone: 770-967-2225. 6323 Grand Hickory Dr The time: --- 11:00 AM until ---
<http://www.braseltongrillellc.com/index.htm> Hosts: Etheredges & Borings

