

# THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers chapter of FMCA

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## October 14 - 18, 2009 Camp Harmony – Elberton GA Hosts: Barretts and Carpenters

**Note:** Just a note up front to let you know Lois & Don were not able to attend the rally due to area flooding again. So, Ted Barrett filled in by writing the newsletter this time. I begin with a **correction** to last month's newsletter. I failed to include under Members Bob-Tailing, that Dennis and Joyce Horcher came in Friday for the fishing adventure at the trout pond.

**Members camping:** Ted & Martha Barrett, Jerry & Dot Carpenter, Luke & Linda Callas, Chuck & Allene Conner, Dennis & Joyce Horcher, John & June Huffman, and Truett & Elaine Swanson. We regret again that some of our planned attendees had to cancel because of the weather or other reasons.



**Guests camping:** First time visitors Bob & Anita Pratt from Ellabelle, Bernd & Irma Greulich from Gainsville, and David & Pat Werdin from Hayesville, NC.

**Monday** was going to be the arrival day for the co-hosts. But with the forecast of heavy rain all day long, they decided to wait until Tuesday to drive over to Camp Harmony. Shortly after that decision, Lois called to let us know she and Don would have to cancel out due to possible flooding of the basement at their house.

**Tuesday** morning brought clearing skies and Martha and I departed for Camp Harmony. On the way over John Long called to say the Doctors would not let him put any weight on his newly skin grafted foot; and he was pretty much confined to a wheel chair for the next few weeks. He was encouraged to stay home and put his recovery as his number one goal. When Martha and I arrived around lunch time, we found the Carpenters had beaten us there by a few minutes and the Horchers had driven over in the heavy rain the day before. After some trimming of low hanging limbs to get parked and clear the main entrance in front of the club house, it was off to La Fogata's and lunch for the co-hosts. The Horchers were out sightseeing with Ray and Joyce Coleman, their friends who live in Elberton. After lunch it was time to test the campsite electrical posts. And, it wasn't long before the Callases arrived. Now there were sufficient numbers present to begin a shade tree circle of fellowship. Soon the Horchers and their friends returned from sightseeing and the circle under the shade tree expanded. Later in the evening, the Colemans departed for home and a little after dark, the Huffmans interrupted an impromptu

game of Hand and Foot when they arrived. After helping the Huffmans park, it was back to finish the game of Hand and Foot.

**Wednesday** morning brought about the return of rain. It began around 3:00 in the morning. The hosts began the day with a trip to Sam's Club in Athens to purchase food for the Low Country Boil and also the ribs. During that time Bob & Anita Pratt and Bernd & Irma Greulich arrived and setup in the rain. Instead of a social gathering under the shade trees, it was much dryer inside the Club House. For dinner it was off to Fletchers in Hartwell, where all 16 campers had a great time and did not return until 8:00 PM. With such a late start, the Hand and Foot games ran over beyond bedtime for some. But still, no one turned into a pumpkin.

**Thursday** morning began with a trip to the Berryman House in Bowman for breakfast. One in our group sorta let us know their age, when they commented how they could remember when they had breakfast there for 79 cents and they felt ashamed to ask for a Senior's discount – no names mentioned here. And as for the day -- more rain. But, that did not dampen spirits as some set out in various directions sightseeing. Later in the afternoon Chuck & Allene Conner arrived and setup in the rain. The Low Country Boil that was planned outside under the shade trees was moved inside. The heat from the cooker, along with a roaring fire in the fireplace made the Club House warm and toasty. Potatoes, onions, sausage, corn, and shrimp all took their turn being added to the large pot. And as scheduled the feast began right at 5:30 PM. For some, the Low Country Boil was a first time experience, but it did not seem to affect their appetite in a negative way at all. After the great feast, it was time for more Hand and Foot with last night's first timers playing the game better than some of us old timers.





**Friday** morning began with more rain, but the Club House was warm and toasty with another roaring fire in the fireplace. Around lunch time, everyone decided it was La Fogata's for a Mexican lunch. After lunch it was more sightseeing for some, while others returned to the Club House to enjoy the warmth of the fireplace. It was a good afternoon of tall tales and some trips down memory lane. Before long it was time to light the charcoal to grill the ribs. And around 5:30 PM it was feast time again—grilled ribs and various dishes, plus some great desserts UMMMMMMMMMMGood. In the evening it was more rain and more Hand and Foot.



**Saturday** morning began with, you guessed it, more rain. So, it was back in the Club House to huddle around the fireplace and enjoy some coffee and pastries before our annual Business Meeting at 10:00 AM. The meeting went well and we elected our officers for 2010, see the list below. Congratulations to all. The new officers will be installed at our next rally in Gadsden.

- 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

Also, the rain did not deter David and Pat Werdin from driving in from Hayesville. They arrived a little before lunch and set up. Most everyone stayed around the campground and had a light lunch. And after lunch it was more games of Hand and Foot. For supper we all went to the Red Minnow Lighthouse restaurant. Seafood is their specialty and they had large variety, including frog legs. Plus the desserts were very tasty and warranted a second helping for some. After supper, it was back to Camp Harmony. While some played more Hand and Foot, others decided to watch the NASCAR race from Charlotte. The original plan was to build a campfire and watch it on outside TV, but you guessed it – more rain. However, it was not raining in Charlotte and the race went on. Not everyone's favorite driver won. And low and behold, the rain ended about the time the race did – right before mid-night.

**Sunday** brought to a close a small but great rally under a clear blue sky. The rain had finally gone and the morning brought forth the beginning of a beautiful day. Around 8:30 AM some of the Mountaineers began to meander over to the Club House for coffee and pastries, or to just

warm up around the fire place. At 9:30 we had devotion led by Chuck Conner. It was then time to say our good byes and hit the road. However, before hitting the road Truett decided to hit one of the campground water faucets. It is truly amazing how those things will just jump out in front of you. As far as I know, everyone made it home safe and sound. However, I do know of one eventful trip. At the bottom of this newsletter is a report from Luke and Linda, accounting for some of the adventures of J.C.

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. Although small in number compared to attendance at some of our last rallies, and the fact that it rained everyday but Tuesday, everyone had a good time. The Low Country Boil and Grill Pork Loin Ribs were a treat. And, we enjoyed meeting and having our visitors, and hope you will return to be with us again. Next month's rally is at River Country Campground in Gadsden, Alabama. Our hosts will be the Birts and the Horchers and we are expecting a large turn out. Hope to see you there.

*Ted Barrett*  
*Substituting for Lois*

## **RALLY REMINDER:**

**November 18 - 21 Gadsden AL River Country Campground.** Reservations required, phone 256-543-7111. Directions: From jct of US-411 & US-278 go south on US-411 1.1 mi to River Rd. E 0.5 mi. See <http://www.rivercountrycampground.com>. **Hosts: Horchers and Birts**

**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**

## **A Tale of Woe by Linda & Luke:**

We stopped on busy US441 Sunday around 12:30 in Clayton, GA for fuel at which time J. C. shot out the door like a cannon. We looked, called and left posters with adjoining businesses. We stayed there till 4 pm, not willing to give up on looking for him. We never saw him once on the grounds after he went out the door and took a left turn under our feet....Not wanting to cross the mountain and set up after dark, we left at 4 PM for Hiawassee feeling very blue. Once we got the coach settled, we took the SUV back to Clayton to look again. No sign of J. C. Finally we got some fast food and went back for another look until about 7 PM. Still, no J. C.

It was a very, very sad drive back to Hiawassee, thinking of everything from "I am glad I had just adjusted his collar," "shall I sell the cat genie commode on ebay," and "it's the coldest night so far, for him to be out there." We just could not believe he disappeared so quickly. Luke felt sure somebody "got" him. I saw a single person driving by and he must have been on a hands free phone, for he looked as if he were talking to the empty passenger seat. I wanted to hope that

he had taken J. C. and would call from his collar info. I was questioning whether I was wrong to have gotten him for Luke, for now he was so upset and thought he had been missing several days.

Luke was going to bed and I was in my PJ's, but not even close to being able to sleep, so I started watching a 10 o'clock show on TV. It was very cold and we didn't even open the slide, so I settled in the co-pilot's chair near the door, as I cannot see TV from my sofa spot when the slide is in. About 10:15 I heard a thump on the step a time or two, a familiar cry, and being certain that I was "loosing it" I finally opened the door to have J. C. come scampering in as if nothing was out of the ordinary (with very dirty feet). I must have screamed like a really crazy woman to Luke in the back of the coach.

J. C. had never experienced our slide unopened when we were set up for the night, so he immediately checked out the 3-4 inch space on top of it from the back of the driver's chair, leaped up and went down to the wider space over the microwave where he posed for us with his head and front paws exposed as if he were a deer mounted on the wall after the hunt.

My emotions ranged from thinking of shooting him to never letting him out of my sight again. Today, after we settled down a bit, we talked about how he needed punishment. Yeah, right!!! We can only presume that he traveled hobo style and was with us most or all of the time until he made his presence known. That cat could give me a heart attack!! Needless to say, we are now happy campers once again. Linda & Luke

