

THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers chapter of FMCA

September 23 - 27, 2009
Bald Mountain Park – Hiawassee GA
Hosts: Silvers and Longs

Note: Just a note up front to let you know Lois & Don were not able to attend the rally due to their basement being flooded. So, Ted Barrett filled in by writing the newsletter this time.

Members camping: Van Armstrong, Ted & Martha Barrett, Don & Judy Blanchfield, Jerry & Dot Carpenter, Chuck & Allene Conner, Bill & Pat Denny, John & June Huffman, Mike & Judy Hughes, John & Sandra Long, Larry & Audrey Martin, Joe & Nancy Onda, Phil & Marilyn Salling, Earle & Jean Seaverns, Miriam Smith, Truett & Elaine Swanson, Warren Swanson & Joyce Vance, and Willard & Sue Swanson. Also present were George & Dorothy Silver who stayed outside the campground. We regret that Ken & Dea Earley were unable to make the rally and that Carl & LaVerne Abbott and Don & Lois Hardison had to cancel out.

Members Bob-Tailing: Ken & Dea Early, Dennis & Joyce Horcher, and Luke & Linda Callas.

Guests camping: First time visitors Wilfred & Candida Caveda from Westminster, SC and Chris & Stella Christopher from Dahlonega, GA. Second time visitors were Janice Schell from Gray, GA and Liz Yarbrough from Blairsville, GA. Ken & Lynn Clugston, Joe & Clara Ellis, and Dennis & Linda Lefebvre had planned on attending, but had to cancel and were not able to attend.

Tuesday morning began with the rain ending and the beginning of clearing skies. Martha and I waited until mid morning to be sure the rains were gone, before leaving Ellijay and heading to Hiawassee. On our way in on Fodder Creek Road, we saw evidence that Fodder Creek had overflowed its banks and ran down the road the night before. We reached Bald Mountain Park a little after noon, and found some brave Mountaineers had endured the rain and been at Bald Mountain since or before the weekend. Truett & Elaine, Warren & Joyce, Willard & Sue, Van, Miriam, and Wilfred & Candida Caveda were already there. But no one was at home. So we set up and went to Monte Alban for lunch. When we returned to the campground, John & Sandra had arrived. **Plus, we had an almost clear blue sky.** Later in the afternoon, all the others returned and there was some visiting at the picnic tables and meeting of the visitors.

Wednesday morning **we awoke to a clear blue sky** – what a relief from all the previous rain. There wasn't much stirring until George Silver drove in and stopped for a chat. Later it was off to lunch for a few at Daniel's Steak House. Just as they were leaving, some of the coaches to arrive on Wednesday were making their way in.

On the way back from lunch, the Huffman's coach was on the side of Fodder Creek Road about a half mile from the campground with a flat front tire. Behind his coach was the Onda's

coach, who had stopped to help. With four wheeler help there to run interference, Joe and Nancy decided to continue on to the campground, but their coach was stuck in the mud from all the heavy rain. Instead of unhooking Joe's toad, John Huffman got behind the wheel and with the tandem effort of the coach pulling, the toad pushed it out of the mud -- amazing. John and June's flat tire was caused by the brakes locking up, but before long emergency service was there to get the tire repaired and the Huffmans on their way to campground. It should be noted that while waiting for emergency service and the repair work, there was a group of five campers sitting near the coach under the shade trees by the road. In jest, a few locals stopped by to let them know the campground was another half mile down the road. Others arriving during the afternoon besides the Huffmans and the Ondas were the Carpenters, Sallings, Seaverns, Blanchfields, Martins, Hughes, Chris & Stella Christopher, and Janice Schell.

Some of the folks who spent the last few days in the rain, found out their coach was not water proof. So on this nice sun shiny day, there was much activity with caulking guns on the roof tops. Hopefully all the repair work was successful and there will be no more leaks. Even with the rooftop repair work, there was still time for more shade tree socials before our Salad and Sandwich Supper at the Pavilion. After a very enjoyable meal, campers took turns around the table introducing themselves so our visitors would know who the Georgia Mountaineers are and so the Mountaineers could learn a little about them. Next, it was time for Hand and Foot and Chicken Foot. And, just to let you know, yours truly and his team recovered from a 3500 point deficiency on the last hand of Hand & Foot to claim a victory – a feat definitely worth a beating of the chest.

Thursday morning began with an opening in the agenda. Some went out for breakfast while others decided on an early lunch. And Warren and Joyce had to return home. Later it was off for Ice Cream and Cookies at 1:00 PM in the home of the Seaverns. As in the past years, Earle and Jean were the great host and hostess. And, the ice cream and cookies were also great. New and old members took a tour of their beautiful home with the fantastic view of Chatuge Lake and the mountains beyond. Our heartfelt thanks go to the Seaverns for inviting us into their home and for their great hospitality. After Ice Cream and Cookies, it back to the campground for most and some more shade tree socials. In the meantime, Liz Yarbrough had arrived and joined the other campers on their return. At 5:00 PM it was off to downtown Hiawassee and Smoke Rings Bar-B-Que for a very good BBQ dinner of almost any type BBQ one's taste buds could desire. They even had their 17 different style Wings for 35 cents each.

After dinner, it was back to the campground and games at the Pavilion. Well, lightening did not strike twice this time, and yours truly and team lost on the last hand. I think the reason for the loss was due to someone's lucky chair being misplaced. And, this is not the first time this has happened. Some folks will resort to just about anything to win a game of Hand and Foot. This was also observed at another table, one player holding a pair of 8's and a pair of 10's, tried to play a 10 hidden in the middle of two 8's, and then discarded the other 10. He then declared he was **Looking**. However, this tricky maneuver did not get by the opponents and the cards had to be picked back up. There was another big group at the Chicken Foot table, and from the noise, they were having a good time.

Friday morning seemed like a slow start and basically was, since everyone was to leave at 10:30 for Rollins Planetarium at Young Harris College. Most everyone made it and the planetarium show began at 11:00. Although a small planetarium, it is state of the art with new digital

technology. The show was not only enjoyable, but very educational – at least some of us can find the North Star now. For anyone living in the area, the planetarium offers various shows on Friday night with many of them aimed at children. You may want to check it out and attend some of them. After the show, the campers went many different directions for lunch. On arriving back at the campground, they found that Bill & Pat Denny had finally rolled in, and Ken and Dea Earley had bob-tailed in for a short visit.

Later in the afternoon it was trout fishing time. Bet you didn't know we had so many Virgil Wards in the Chapter. Dennis and Joyce Horcher Bob-Tailed in for the event. It was perfect weather for a visit to the Trout Fish Hatchery tucked back in the beautiful mountains of Hiwassee. Many Mountaineers fished, with some just cheering the fishermen (and ladies) on. The trout were so big, some lines were broken. But many of the big ones ended up in the catch. All in all, they caught 17 trout that dressed out at 24½ pounds. It was a very successful fishing trip and we really can't say the big one got away, because Judy Blanchfield caught it. See the photo. The almost 25 pounds of trout was baked to perfection by George and Dorothy and later brought to the Pavilion for the feast of trout and the many Pot Luck side dishes -- UMMMMMMMMMMMMGood.....! Afterwards, it was time for more games in the Pavilion.



Saturday morning began very cloudy with a light rain. Some went out for breakfast and others went various places for lunch. After lunch the rain became a little heavier and put a big damper on attendance to the Bluegrass Festival that was on the agenda at 1:00 PM in Blairsville. The weather forecast was heavy rain beginning at 3:00 PM, but it did not show up until around one hour later. And with the heavy rain, in came Luke and Linda Callas for a Bob-Tailing visit.

Saturday evening was the event we had all been waiting for, the Second Annual Georgia Mountaineers Chili Cook-Off. This time there were eleven pots of chili entered with all the attendees having a vote in the judging. It was obvious by the accompanying fire extinguisher and the “HOT” warning sign, that one pot may be a little on the warm side. Everyone was given a little cup to go through the line and taste the various pots of chili before casting their vote. Many sampled them more than once, before making up their mind. After the tasting, it was a scrumptious dinner of the chili, or chilies, of your choice, a few side dishes, and some great desserts. Then it was time to count the votes. First Place went to Ted Barrett, the defending Champion from our First Annual Chili Cook-Off. And with a very close vote, Second Place went to Pat Denny. Congratulations to both -- and appreciation to all of those entering a pot in the cook-off. Based on comments from Sunday morning, next year's chili cook-off may have some very “*heated*” competition.

Sunday brought to a close a great rally. The rain had gone and the morning brought forth the beginning of a beautiful day. Around 8:30 some of the Mountaineers began to meander over to the Pavilion for coffee and donuts. That was followed by an interesting devotional led our guest Mike Worthy, a missionary who has served in the country of Kurdistan. Following devotional, John Long announced that Janice Schell had become our newest member. **Welcome to the Georgia Mountaineers Janice!** It was then time to say our good byes and hit the road, although a few had decided to stay over until Monday.

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. It was not only a fun rally, but also educational with our visit to the Planetarium at Young Harris College. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to our Rally Hosts, George and Dorothy for their efforts in lining up the rally agenda and to John and Sandra for Co-hosting and helping execute the agenda. And, we enjoyed meeting and having our visitors, and hope you will return to be with us again. Next month is Camp Harmony. We are planning on having a Low Country Boil for one meal and grilled Pork Loin Ribs for another. One meal will probably be at the Berryman House. And, if the Red Minnow is open, we will try putting it on the agenda for some good seafood. Remember, Camp Harmony does not require or take reservations. **But, you do need to email us and let us know you will be there.** We will need a good head count in advance for the purpose of buying the ingredients, especially the shrimp, for the Low Country Boil and also the ribs.

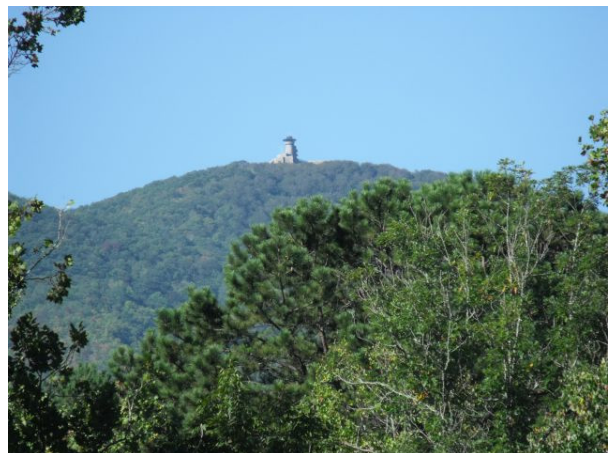
*Ted Barrett
Substituting for Lois*

RALLY REMINDER:

October 14 - 17 Elberton GA Camp Harmony. No reservations required, notify Wagon Master and Hosts. Directions: From Elberton take Hwy-77 north to Hwy-368. Turn right on Hwy-368 and go 1.6 miles and turn left on Harmony Road. Campground entrance is on the left, right past the church. **Hosts: Barretts and Carpenters**

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**



Van: Just before doing some caulking on his roof



Jean: Our Ice Cream and Cookie Hostess



Sandra, Miriam, and Janice



Chuck, Allene, Dorothy, and Van

