

THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA



September 22 -- 26, 2010 River Bend Campground -- Hiawassee GA Hosts: Bielemeiers and Silvers



This was our first rally at River Bend Campground near Hiawassee. It is a relatively new campground and over just a few short years it has transitioned into a very nice place with lots of grass and landscaping. It has many campsites on the banks of the Hiawassee River and most of the campsites are very level. At check-in and registration, we were met with very customer-friendly folks and this remained true for the remainder of our time there. This was also our second largest rally ever with 25 coaches in attendance.

Members Camping: Ted & Martha Barrett, Bob & Eva Bielemeier, Sam & Margaret Broady, Bill & Pat Denny, Jerry & Dot Carpenter, Ken & Dea Early, Jerry & Laura Eaves, John & Diane Franklin, Lowell & Joan Fritsche, Joe & Connie Gallagher, Don & Marquita Haines, John & June Huffman, Mike & Judy Hughes, John & Sandra Long, Jim & Karen Mathis, Phil & Marilyn Salling, Janice Schell, George & Dorothy Silver, Truett & Elaine Swanson, David & Pat Werdin, Jack & Chris White, and Liz Yarbrough.

Visitors Camping: First time visitors - Tommy & Angie Coleman from Dawsonville and Duane Lazenby from Marietta. Second time visitors - Don & Peggy Crump from Baldwin, who also joined at this rally -- welcome to the Georgia Mountaineers. Also parked next to the Barretts were David and Molly Purdy and their two teenage daughters Colleen and Erin. They were camping with their friends from Roswell. Being on Ted's prospective members list, they are the ones that bought their RAV4 back in January. Not quite ready to join a chapter, they still went to Brother's Restaurant with our group.

Bob-Tailers: Chuck and Allene Conner came in Friday afternoon and spent some time under the shade tree. Chuck seemed to be recovering well from his pacemaker implant, but he said with it set to 70 beats per minute, it seemed he was running at 70 MPH. Earle and Jean Seaverns came in Saturday afternoon and just as they were getting parked under the shade trees, a nice rain shower came along. Later for the Chili Cook Off, Dennis and Joyce Horcher came and stayed for the campfire. It was very good to see all of them.

Tuesday morning saw the arrival of the Barretts and Carpenters. After setting up, it was off to Monte Alban for lunch where they were joined by Ken Early. Later in the afternoon, more early birds arrived – the Whites, Huffmans, Fritsches, and Franklins. However, all of those arriving on Tuesday were not the first early birds, as the Haines and Swansons were already on location. As the sun



began to go down, many of the early arrivals gathered around a campfire on the west bank of the Hiawasse River. It was a good time to catch up on latest events along with updates on the grand kids. There was even a tall tale or two and some roasted marshmallows.

Wednesday, being the first official day of the rally, saw most of the remainder of the attendees arrive. However, there were some stragglers that did not show up until Thursday. Some of the group went to Daniel's Steak House for lunch. Mid-afternoon it was time to practice the Cornhole Toss and it soon became obvious that Bill Denny will be the one to beat at Friday's competition. Most of those not practicing spent the afternoon under the shade trees enjoying the coolness of the late September day. A large thunder boomer formed south of the campground and skirted around on the west side before heading north into North Carolina. But, it never did rain at the campground. Around 4:30 the group broke up and went into Hiawasse and Hayesville for dinner. At 7:00 PM many enjoyed Hand & Foot and dominoes in the clubhouse, while others enjoyed another evening around the campfire.

Thursday morning began with many talking about the beautiful Harvest Moon from Wednesday night and the fact that Jupiter was so visible along with some of its moons. Soon it was time for lunch with El Cancun in Hiawasse on the agenda. So it was about a five-mile caravan to the Mexican restaurant. We filled all the booths in their large dining room and gave the two waitresses a big job in getting every one's order taken care of. Back at the campground at 2:00 PM, we had a Firewise information briefing by some of Towns County's finest. It was very



educational about things to do to help prevent your home from being consumed in a wild fire. After the briefing, there was an Ice Cream Social with participation by all. For dinner the group was treated to a feast of Fried Fish and



Hush Puppies provided by the campground. That, along with cheese grits, other side dishes, and desserts made a great meal. After clean up, it was time for games in the clubhouse. There was a table of seven playing Chicken Foot. At one Hand and Foot table, the women lost the game by over 11,000 points. This resulted in Smokie getting a very long late night walk. However, the women were triumph at another table of eight. While those were playing games in the clubhouse, others enjoyed another evening around the campfire.

Friday was a busy day with outdoor games at 10:30 AM. Although there were no takers for horseshoes, many tried their skills at Cornhole Toss. It was very obvious this is a game not played by many of the



Mountaineers. If there were minus points for missing the entire board, most scores would have been in the negative. However there were a few good tossers, with Lowell coming in Second Place to one of River Bend's local ringers. After the games, it was various places for lunch. At 2 PM the group gathered back up for a trip to Brasstown Bald. There were no takers for the steep hike to the top, so all took the vans. Brasstown Bald is Georgia's tallest mountain and it is always a great place to visit. At 5:30 PM our caravan left the campground for the trip to Brother's Restaurant at Willow Ranch near Young Harris. We completely filled up their upstairs dining area. From all reports, everyone's food was great and we had very good service. Back at the campground there were more games in the clubhouse and another campfire.



Saturday morning is usually sleep-in time for some, and it was not any different this Saturday. Later before noon, of those up and stirring, some went to Hiwassee to shop in various shops with others going to Alexanders. For lunch, one group went to Monte Alban. After lunch some went back to Hiwassee for the Summer Arts Affair while others had the chili pots going. By 6:00 PM there were around 12 pots of chili entered in our Third Annual Chili Cook Off. After many trips around the chili pots, the voting began and it was soon apparent as to the winners. Third place went to Jerry Eaves, Second Place went to Ted Barrett, and our new Chili Champion is Diane Franklin – congratulations! After dinner, some stayed in the clubhouse for games while many others had another great evening around the campfire.



Sunday morning was our usual coffee and pastries before our devotional. A little after 9:00 AM, we had a short devotional by George Silver. Then it was time to say our goodbyes and, except for a few staying over to Monday, hit the road on the way home. **A Great Big THANK YOU goes to our Co-Hosts, the Bielemeiers and Silvers --They did a great job!**

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our members who could not make the rally or had to cancel at the last minute for various health or personal reasons. It was a fun rally and if you were not there you missed a real good one. Next month is Camp Harmony at Elberton. And, if you have not made your reservations for Gadsden in November, you need to do so ASAP. There will be two other clubs at River Country in Gadsden the same time we are there, so there is a good chance the campground will be full. Remember, the campgrounds normally release the campsites they have been holding for us about 30 days prior to the rally. So, if you wait until 30 days before the rally, you may not be able to get in, or may have to be located somewhere in the campground separate from our group.

Announcements:

Number 1: Lowell and Bill have planned the Rally Agenda at Elberton. They have several activities planned along with five meals to be prepared at the rally site. They will have breakfast on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and Dinner on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The dinner meals will be from the smoker/grill (the plans are for Pulled Pork, Chicken and Brisket). The breakfast will be full breakfast on Friday and Saturday. The due date on the Registration Form was 26 September. If you have any questions, you can email Lowell at lowellr@juno.com or call him at 706-863-6845 or his cell phone at 812-525-4040.

Number 2: It has been recommended that we send our membership dues of \$6.00 per person to Judy Hughes by the end of October so accounting can be done prior to change of officers in November. So now is a good time to send in your dues along with your money for the Christmas Luncheon.

*Ted Barrett
Substituting for Lois Hardison*

RALLY REMINDER:

October: 13th thru 16th Elberton GA Camp Harmony. Contact the Rally Hosts for Registration Form. 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: Fritsches & Dennys

November: 17th thru 20th River Country Campground. Gadsden, AL. Reser Req. Directions: From junction of US-411 & US-278 go south on US-411 1.1 miles to River Road, go left 0.5 miles to campground. Reservations: 256-543-7111 Mention the Ga. Mountaineers
Hosts: Horchers, Gills, & Broadys

December: Christmas Luncheon: 10th December 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM Smith House, 84 South Chestatee St, Dahlonga, GA. \$20 per person include meal, tax & gratuity. Fried Chicken, Baked Ham, Assortment of Vegetables, Rolls & Corn Bread, Drinks & Dessert.
Hosts: Christophers & Longs