

THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

**September 18 -- 22, 2013
River Bend Campground
Hiawassee, Georgia
Hosts: Whites and Longs**

River Bend Campground is located just south of Hiawassee, a little off of GA-75. Many of its campsites back up to the shaded banks of the peaceful Hiawassee River with its beautiful clear water, small rippling rapids, and rocky bottom. This is great place to have a rally, or just to go camping.



Members Camping: Ken & Margie Alexander, Ted & Martha Barrett, Bob & Eva Bielemeier, Linda Callas, Don & Peggy Crump, Dave & Brenda Dillon, Ed & Patricia Durrence, Jerry & Laura Eaves, Joe & Connie Gallagher, BG & Irma Greulich, Paul & Madonna Holko, Virginia Jackson, Marie Lester, John & Sandra Long, Jim & Karen Mathis, Truett & Elaine Swanson, Willard & Sue Swanson, Jack & Chris White, Liz Yarbrough, and Greg & Rose Zaic.

Visitors Camping: Bob & Deb Tilley from Alpharetta and Jimmy & Joy King from Mount Airy, Georgia.



Tuesday: After arriving on Monday, we awoke to a much cooler morning at 55F. Around lunch time other members begin to arrive. First were the Gallaghers, followed by the Dillons, Greulichs, Whites, Holkos, and Longs. There was soon a shade tree group catching up on the latest and making important world decisions. The first one was for the fourteen to eat dinner at Monte Alban (they were small world decisions). On the way to diner we met the Mathises coming in. The Mexican food was great with Jack ordering and devouring the Big Man's Dinner. Back at the campground it was time to light the campfire and locate Chris's fire poker. And it is true, a nice evening of conversation around the flickering flames of a campfire is good for the soul. With the arrival of eight coaches, the pre-rally fun had begun. The McKellars would have arrived, but their RV developed a problem near Cordele and they were awaiting parts.



Wednesday: The day began a little warmer than yesterday and late in the morning more coaches began to come in and set up. By Meet and Greet time, everyone had arrived but Truett & Elaine, John & June, and Jerry & Irene. Meet and Greet was at 2:30 in the pavilion with a large selection of snacks to go with ice cream floats. Our visitors, Bob & Deb Tilley and Jimmy & Joy King, were introduced and welcomed to the rally. At 5:15 PM it was caravan time to Daniels Steak House where most ate from the buffet while others ordered from the menu. Back at the RV park, it was again time to get the campfire going. A few did play Hand & Foot at the pavilion. As the fire died down later in the evening, the day came to a close and everyone went back to their coach and turned in.

Thursday: With lunch on your own, the group spread out to various places for shopping, lunch, and even driving as far as Franklin, NC. In case anyone wants to know, the current cost for a normal speeding ticket in North Carolina is \$30 for speeding and \$188 for associated court cost. For more information on this, you may ask Linda. At 1:00 PM, most gathered in the pavilion for a presentation by Dave Kobos from Apalachee RV Center. Dave gave a very good and educational demonstration on gas and diesel fuel additives. The purpose of which is to prevent major maintenance and repair costs down the road. This was his second visit with us and we thank him very much. Truett & Elaine arrived shortly after lunch; however, the McKellars and Huffmans had to cancel out. John is currently having health problems, see the latest Sunshine Report for his status.



For dinner it was covered dishes to go with the fried fish and hushpuppies provided by the campground. All enjoyed the great spread and the fish was very good. Afterwards it was time again for playing Hand & Foot or enjoying a nice campfire. Seems like the women have been big winners at the card tables.



Friday: Again with an open lunch time, folks took off in various directions with Alexanders being one of them. But, most of them were back at the campground by 2:15 to caravan over to the planetarium at Young Harris College. The feature show was *Heart of the Sun*, with a lot of footage taken from a satellite positioned at the gravity neutral point between Earth and our Sun. As always, our visit to the planetarium was very interesting. After that it was off to Brothers at Willow Ranch for dinner. There were a few exceptions, but with many different items ordered from the menu, most everyone was more than satisfied, with some comments of, "that was the very best." Back at the campground it was more Hand & Foot and a very large circle around the campfire. With rain forecast for Saturday, Jack put a cover over the wood pile before turning in.

Saturday: The weather forecast was for rain and it began before daylight. It was still pouring as the caravan headed to Brasstown Valley Resort for lunch. The salad bar was great, but the select your own pasta buffet cooked by the Resort Chefs could not be beat. The Peach Crisp pie was the highlight of the dessert bar. After the big lunch, most folks went back to their coach for a long nap to the tune of the light rain falling on the roof. While most folks were napping, Dea Hunter and her new husband BJ, came to the Barrett's coach for a visit with some others dropping in while they were there. Congratulations to Dea and BJ. Based on the feedback, almost no one went out for dinner, even though the rain had finally stopped. In the evening there was more Hand & Foot at the tables in the pavilion and also a very large group around the campfire. Overall, the women prevailed and were the champions at the card tables this rally. For the men, better luck next time.

Sunday: The rain had cleared and it was time for coffee, juice, and pastries at the pavilion. As with most cool mornings, the hot coffee tasted just a little bit better than usual. For our devotional, George Silver brought in a guest speaker, Gil Hennegar. Gill is from the Georgia Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Ministry. He gave us a short presentation on what their organization is about and some examples of where and how they have served and helped disaster victims in the past. We thank Gill for his visit. For more information on this organization, go to <http://gbcdisasterrelief.org>. After devotional, 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 Longs and Whites!** In closing, we want to thank our Visitors, Bob & Deb and Jimmy & Joy, for attending our Rally. We hope you had a good time and will come back again. We also thank River Bend Campground for the fried fish, they were very delicious.

Announcements:

Number 1: During our Business Meeting last month, the Nominating Committee announced the nominees for next year's officer positions. Since the announcement, there have been two changes. The first one was Rose Zaic replacing Karen Mathis as Sunshine Reporter. The second one is a new vacancy for First Vice President. If anyone is interested or willing to serve as First Vice President, please contact Jack White, John Huffman, or Pat Corley. With those two changes, the current list of nominees is as follows:

Elected Positions:

President -----	Ed Williams
First Vice President -----	(To Be Selected)
Second Vice President/Wagon Master -----	Jack White
Treasurer -----	Don Crump
Recording Secretary -----	Patricia Durrence
Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter Editor -	Irene McKellar
National Director -----	Jim Mathis
Alternate National Director -----	Jerry Eaves

Volunteer/Appointed Positions:

Scrapbook Editor -----	Sandra Long
Sheriff -----	Bob Bielemeier
Sunshine Reporter -----	Rose Zaic
Devotional Leader -----	Ray Rowe
Webmaster -----	Ted Barrett

Number 2: Next year's Rally Schedule should be released within the next few weeks. For our 2014 October Rally, we will be going to Spring Lake RV Resort in Crossville, TN. They have two clubhouses, but to get the real nice large clubhouse, we will need 30 coaches to attend. So get your 2014 calendar out and mark in our October Rally. Specific dates will be provided later. We need at least 30 coaches there, so lets make it our largest rally ever.

RALLY REMINDERS:

October: 16th thru 19th Great Outdoors RV Resort. Franklin NC. Reservations required, 828-349-0412. Directions: From Franklin take US 441/23 north five miles, then left on Echo Valley Rd., then an immediate right onto Thumpers Trail. <http://www.gorvresort.com>

Hosts: Alexanders & Crumps

November: 13th thru 16th River Country Campground. Gadsden, AL. Reservations required, 256-543-7111. 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.

<http://www.rivercountrycampground.com>

Hosts: Durrences, & Tysons

December: Christmas Luncheon. Location is the Western Sizzlin near Cleveland, 1963 Tom Bell Road, 706-348-1997. <http://www.westernsizzlincleveland.com>. First week of December, actual **Date and Time TBD.**

Hosts: Longs

*Ted Barrett
Substituting for Jeanie Baer
Newsletter Editor*