



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA



Georgia Mountaineer Rally August 13-17, 2014 Mountain View RV Resort Blairsville, Georgia **Mountain View** is a lovely site, located just three miles from the town, and near many shops and restaurants. The property has been purchased by a Fort Myers, Florida, company, which plans to add up to 125 sites, complete the clubhouse, and revise the infrastructure of the park, by next year.

THE HOSTS



MEMBERS ATTENDING THE RALLY:

Ken and Margie Alexander, Bob and Eva Bielmeier, Pat Bryant, Dorris and Ethel Carpenter, Dave and Brenda Dillon, Don and Pat Donnelly, Ed and Patricia Durrence, B.G. and Irma Greulich, Don and Marquita Haines, , Marti and Lois Martisauskas, Jim and Karen Mathis, Jean Morris, Martin and Juanita Welborn, Ed and Young Williams. Members who dropped in for a visit during the week: Linda Callas and her friend, Harry Sasser, Dennis and Joyce Horcher, Virginia Jackson, Liz Yarbrough, and *Friendsof-the-Chapter*: Chuck and Allene Conner.

FIRST TIME VISITORS:

Norm and Valerie Markle (friends of Martin and Juanita Wellborn)

SECOND TIME VISITORS:

Doug and Terry Gibbs Mike and Kathie Newton Both couples are now <u>MEMBERS</u> of our group!

TUESDAY~

The weather was sunny and perfect for our Blairsville gathering (low 90's during the day, and low 60's overnight), and promised a tremendous week for the Mountaineers. Seven coaches arrived.

WEDNESDAY~

Another beautiful day, and after the remaining coaches arrived, and we met in the hospitality room at 3:00, for Root Beer Floats and cookies, served to us by our hosts: Joe, Connie, Madonna, and Paul.



After enjoying our floats, Connie Gallagher reviewed the week's agenda, and gave directions to the restaurants where we would be dining. Paul Holko discussed the other activities for the week, and their costs and locations. Linda Callas (member), introduced her friend, Harry Sasser, whom she had invited to our afternoon social. The Wellborn's introduced their friends, Norm and Valerie Markle, visiting our group for the first time. Second time visitors, Mike and Kathie Newton and Doug and Terri Gibbs were also recognized.

Alas! Poor Ted (who favors the Mexican food) missed our evening meal at the Monte Alban Mexican Restaurant. We had a festive time, sharing the salsa, chips, and conversation. It was such a great beginning for our Blairsville rally.



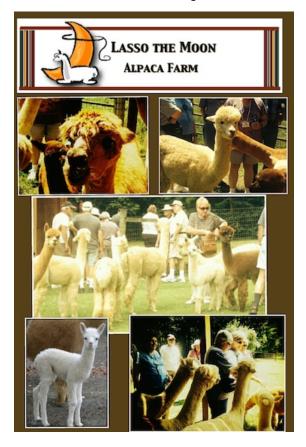
Monte Alban's Restaurant

The day ended after several games of "Hand and Foot", and much conversation!

THURSDAY~

During the morning hours, there were walkers, bikers (motorcycles), readers, and a convention of "dog lovers", which met at Connie and Joe Gallagher's coach. Sometimes we forget that the group has "little travelers", too.

Our group visited the **Lasso the Moon Alpaca Farm,** at 2:00.



We fed the animals, and viewed various products made from their wool, along with other crafts. This activity was such a hit!

Dinner on Thursday, was at **Brother's**, in Young Harris. Upon returning, Paul Holko started our campfire, while inside the clubhouse, there were some exciting games of "Hand and Foot" being played! Karen Mathis was particularly excited about the play of the "women" at her table. At the end of the third round, the score was:

Women - 10,375 Men - 10,365

We were anxious to see if the men, who had been 2000 points behind, could win. The women, however, came back to take the game, followed by much celebration!

Women - 14,725 Men - 12,695

The makings of a Grand Championship (wink)



FRIDAY ~

After a relaxing morning, at 2:00, the group visited the Byron H. Reese Museum, on Route 129, south of Blairsville. Reese was a noted poet author from the Georgia and Mountains. Our guide (a graduate of Harris Young College, where Reese attended and later taught), gave us insight into Reese's illness (TB), extreme intelligence, isolation, dedication to his parents' farm, and anxiety about not having "time" "make a living" from his writing. This acclaimed writer committed suicide. The farm had a workshop, where he wrote, along with various buildings and tools that Reese used on the farm. The Gift shop offered samples of his writing, and local crafts.



Our dinner, Friday evening, was at **Steve's Steak House Cookie Jar Restaurant**, in Blairsville. We enjoyed the food and the relaxing time together, then returned to Mountain View, for some friendly chatter around the campfire. There were no card games on this night, as we did not have access to the clubhouse.

SATURDAY ~

Our hosts, having planned a Pot Luck for this day, had nothing on our agenda, allowing us time to plan and prepare our dishes for the 5:30 meal. The weather was, again, gorgeous (after the fog lifted), prompting some of our members to check out the Misty Mountain Train Museum, while others rode their motorcycles (Doug and Terry), visited the local waterfalls, or spent time in the clubhouse, practicing on an IPad.

The Pot Luck was such a success! Sandwiches, salads, and desserts were the perfect menu, considering the high temperature and intense sun of the day. We lingered at the tables, and enjoyed the conversation into the evening. We had many of our new members and visitors involved in the card games this last evening. It was a relaxing way to end the last full day at Mountain View.

SUNDAY ~

At 9:00, we gathered in the clubhouse, for doughnuts, pastries, juice, and coffee. Our time in Blairsville, went so quickly, and the coaches and cars were prepared for the return trip home. Pat Bryant graciously consented to lead our Devotional, and brought her autoharp (chorded zither), and her lovely voice to the front. She led us in well-known hymns ("In the Garden", "The Holy Ghost Will Set Your Feet A-Dancin", "The Old Rugged Cross", and "Amazing Grace"), and the entire group joined in the singing. It was such a poignant moment.

Madonna Holko spoke to the group, concerning how we explain, accept, and deal with the "bad things" that happen in our lives, when we've always been taught that God is in control. Pat completed the Devotional with "We'll Meet Again," and the entire group joined her in song. What a wonderful way for us to part. Thanks to our hosts!

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# **DON'T FORGET:**

September: 24<sup>th</sup> thru 27<sup>th</sup>
<u>Great Outdoors RV Resort</u>
Franklin NC. Reser Req. 828-349-0412

Hosts: Bielemeiers & Longs http://www.gorvresort.com

October: 22<sup>nd</sup> thru 25<sup>th</sup> Spring Lake RV Resort

Crossville TN. Reser Reg. 877-707-1414

Hosts: Dillons & Greuliches http://www.springlakervtn.com

