

THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

**December 3, 2015
Christmas Luncheon
Amicalola Falls State Park & Lodge
Dawsonville, GA
Hosts: Dave & Donna Porter
and Jerry & Laura Eaves**



This year's Christmas Luncheon was held at Amicalola Falls State Park & Lodge, the location of beautiful Amicalola Falls. Not only does the State Park have the Falls, but thousands of acres of spectacular scenery and miles of hiking trails. It is also home to various wildlife, black bears, turkeys, deer, and many other animals and birds native to north Georgia. Some of the attendees made it an extended visit by staying either in the campground or in one of the Mountain-Top Lodge's many rooms with all the comforts of a hotel.

Members Attending: Ron & Belinda Agnew, Ken & Margie Alexander, Van & Miriam Armstrong, Dan & Jeanie Baer, Ted Barrett, Bob & Eva Bielemeier, Raymond & Donna Birt, Hubert & Marsha Brown, Linda Callas & guest Harry Sasser, Dorris & Ethel Carpenter, Harold & Stella Christopher, Don & Peggy Crump, Ed & Pat Durrence, Jerry & Laura Eaves,



Don & Marquita Haines, Ron & Doris Lewis, John & Sandra Long, Marti & Lois Martisauskas, Jim & Karen Mathis, Jerry & Irene McKellar, Mike & Kathie Newton, Dave & Donna Porter, Ray Rowe & former Mountaineer Rob Hicks, Willard & Sue Swanson, and Greg & Rose Zaic. In addition, also attending were Irma Greulich and Dennis & Joyce Horcher, Friends of the Chapter, and First Time Visitors Penny Bellinger and her mother Elinor. Special Guest was David McKee, from KARE for Kids in Dawsonville.



Our luncheon festivities began around 11:00 AM with everyone's arrival for a chatting session prior to dinner. It was an amazing gathering of our friends. Fifty-two of us met, to celebrate the closing of our year of camping, along with the coming Christmas season. We had decided that our Christmas donation this year would be given to KARE for Kids, a charity for needy children in Dawson County. David McKee, President and Founder of KARE for Kids, joined us for lunch and gave a short history of the organization after dinner. A synopsis will be detailed later in this newsletter.



At 11:45, Ted announced that we would miss Jack & Chris White and Ken & Barbara Cook, and, of course, Martha Barrett, all of whom could not join us for health reasons. Ted also welcomed and introduced our First-Time Visitors, Penny Bellinger and her mother Elinor. Ted proceeded and announced the appointment of Kathie Newton as Sunshine Reporter, and Bob Bielemeier as Sheriff (this will begin his 10th year as Sheriff). They were not in attendance at the November Rally where officers and those holding volunteer positions were installed and appointed. Ted once again thanked those officers and volunteers who agreed to serve again in 2016. Two more scrapbooks were distributed, going to Linda Callas and Irma Greulich.

Ted reminded everyone that baseball caps, cups and decals are still available and that rally sign-up sheets for hosting are on the back table. Hosts are still needed for May at Bald Mountain in Hiawassee, and for July at Holiday Trav-L-Park in Chattanooga, TN. Co-hosts are needed in September at Dillard and December for next year's Christmas Luncheon. Ted then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and turned the luncheon festivities over to Dave Porter.

Dave welcomed all and announced this year's charity, KARE for Kids. He proceeded to introduce David McKee, the President. David started by explaining that their organization's main fundraiser is a Moonshine Festival, which they run every year to benefit KARE for Kids, a 501©3 organization for needy kids at Christmas. He said \$70,000 to \$80,000 is spent at Wal-Mart each year for approximately 85 kids. They do research to verify that all of the children are from Dawson County. The organization started with the Jaycees, then became The StarBrite Organization, then KARE for Kids. The children each receive three sets of clothing, two \$20 items, and one \$10 item. He then proceeded to hand out pamphlets about KARE for Kids and The Moonshine Festival to better acquaint us with them. For more information go to their website, <http://www.kareforkids.org>.

After the pledge of allegiance, Raymond Birt gave the blessing for our dinner. We were invited to the buffet, which included a wonderful array of meats, vegetables, salads, and desserts. The food was plentiful and the conversation was a constant chorus accompanying



our meal. As usual, there was much laughter, the sharing of hugs, and the sharing of plans for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. A fun time was had by all.

After dinner, we played a game to the tune of "The 12 Days of Christmas," where items were handed out in the numbers of the days and everyone with each item sang their specific verse. Kudos go out to Ted Barrett (Item #1) and the "Five Decks of Cards" for the best rendition of those verses, as follows:



- 1 Toilet Brush (for your RV)
- 2 Tiny Flashlights
- 3 Regulators
- 4 Wine Glasses

- 5 Decks of Cards
- 6 Bug Repellants
- 7 Umbrellas
- 8 DVD's
- 9 Rubber Gloves
- 10 Maps of Georgia
- 11 Paper Plates – and
- 12 Name Badges

\$890 was raised for KARE for Kids. A Moonshine Festival Jug was presented to Ted for the Georgia Mountaineers' history records.

Door Prize Winners:

\$20 gift card to Western Sizzlin' - Pat & Ed Durrence

Two free nights at Leisure Acres, Cleveland - Sue & Willard Swanson

Cottage House Special Meal – Ray Rowe

Two more nights at Leisure Acres, Cleveland – Jerry & Laura Eaves

We offer appreciation and thanks to our gracious hosts, Dave & Donna and Jerry & Laura, for arranging such a joyous event for the Georgia Mountaineers.



**Karen Mathis
Substituting for Martha Barrett
Newsletter Editor**

Editor's Note 28 Dec 2015:

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and I wish you a Happy New Year. I want to say a special **Thank You** to Karen for writing the newsletter in my absence and also to Raymond for taking the photos. If you have not visited our website yet, go to the last page, **Photo Gallery**, and click on the link at the top to get to **Shutterfly**. Once there click on **Pictures & Videos** and you will see the **Christmas Album** at the top. There are 69 photos for you to enjoy.