

THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

March 18 -- 22, 2015
Coastal Georgia RV Resort
Brunswick GA
Hosts: Williams and Tysons



This was our sixth rally at Coastal Georgia RV Resort and it is still as nice and inviting as it was when it was new. The only difference is, the resort is now mostly full when we are there. The first two years it was almost empty. The vinyl enclosures on the pavilion helped out a lot against the March wind. The first two years we were here, we had only 12 coaches in attendance. Things have changed since then and we have had 20 or more coaches enjoying our visits to the Golden Isles area. This rally we broke a record with the number of Visitors attending with seven visiting coaches. This is a nice, clean, beautiful resort, so if you are ever in this area, Coastal Georgia is just off I-95 Exit-29.

Members Camping: Dan & Jeanie Baer, Ted & Martha Barrett, Hubert & Marsha Brown, Dorris & Ethel Carpenter, Don & Peggy Crump, Ed & Patricia Durrence, Doug & Terry Gibbs, Virginia Jackson, Fred & Shirley Lee, Ron & Doris Lewis, Jim & Karen Mathis, Willard & Sue Swanson, Randy & Yvonne Tyson, Martin & Juanita Wellborn, Jack & Chris White, Ed & Young Williams, and Greg & Rose Zaic. While we had some early cancellations, we also had some last minute ones. They were Ken & Margie Alexander, Van & Miriam Armstrong, and Dave and Brenda Dillon. We regret you could not make it.

Visitors Camping: First Time Visitors from right to left: Terry & Diane Smith from Villa Rica, Randy & Patty Lord from Villa Rica, Everett & Judith Goethe along with their son Everett from Savannah, Vince & Jane Struble from Raleigh NC, Joe & Donna Alford from Nashville, and Peter & Peggy Bertasi from Gainesville. We certainly hope you had a good time and will come back again. Plus second time visitors, John & Jeanette Nix from Buford, who joined our Chapter at this rally.





Monday was a travel day for many of our attendees with 10 coaches arriving during the day to find the Wellborns and Virginia Jackson already there. It was a beautiful day with a March wind blowing most of the afternoon. Following an afternoon of greeting and catching up on recent news, a group of twelve went to Cilantros Grill & Cantina for a great Mexican dinner. While there were the usual Taco Salads and Quesadillas, the orders also included the Big California Super Burrito and the multi-plate Cilantro's Molcajete, which included shrimp, chicken, steak, chorizo, and pork, all cooked with peppers, onions, and zucchini, topped with melted cheese, and served in a hot lava stone bowl along with platters of rice, beans, a guacamole salad, and tortillas -- what a meal. After dinner, it was off to shopping, some sight seeing, or back to the RV park. With the arrival of twelve coaches, the pre-rally fun had begun.

Tuesday morning we awoke to blue partly cloudy skies, but with a strong March wind blowing. Some went their various ways, including the usual trips to Walmart. During the afternoon we saw the arrival of five more coaches. For dinner some went to a Green Beer and Shrimp special in recognition of St Patrick's Day. Others went to Captain Joe's for a great salad bar and seafood. Once back at the campground, the sand gnats were so bad, most everyone just went inside their coach and called it an early evening.



Wednesday began with much cooler and cloudy skies, plus the ever-strong March winds. The afternoon saw the arrival of the remaining coaches, except for the Alford's. At 3 PM there was a Meet & Greet at the Pavilion. Ted introduced the visitors who were present, and Ed went over some Rally Agenda changes and also began the collection of information for the Occupation Quiz game run by our hosts. At 5:30 PM it was caravan time to Cilantros Grill & Cantina for a very



good dinner. This time there were three Cilantro's Molcajetes ordered, along with a variety of other items on the menu. Believe me, no one left hungry. Back at the RV park, the strong wind kept the no-see-ums away and many folks gathered in the pavilion for a nice fire in the fireplace and also a game of Fast Track. As the fire died down and everyone's eyes became droopy, it was back to the coaches to turn in, with possible rain in the forecast for the night and next day.

Thursday morning began with rain showers, and this was the day to tour the St Simons Lighthouse and Maritime Museum in the afternoon. Some did not let the rain deter them and left in the morning for St Simons. Others stayed



around the campground until time to caravan to the lighthouse. A total of 34 participated in the tour. Many of them made the 129 steps to the top of the lighthouse. The original St Simons Island lighthouse was built in 1810. It was a 75-foot-tall early federal octagonal lighthouse topped by a 10-foot oil-burning lamp. During the [American Civil War](#), U.S. military forces employed a [Naval blockade](#) of the coast. An invasion by Union troops in 1862 forced [Confederate](#) soldiers to abandon the area and the retreating troops destroyed the lighthouse to prevent it from being an aid to the navigation of Union [warships](#). After the war, in 1872, a new lighthouse was built to replace the original. It is a 104-foot brick structure and was outfitted with a third order, [biconvex Fresnel lens](#). The lens is one of 70 such lenses that remain operational in the United States. Sixteen of those are in use on the [Great Lakes](#), of which

eight are in Michigan. The rotating lens projects four beams of light, with one strong flash every 60 seconds. A cast iron spiral stairway with 129 steps leads to the [galley](#) (or watch/service room). In 1876, the lighthouse was overhauled and in 1934, and the kerosene-burning lamp was replaced by a 1000-watt electrical light. The Lighthouse is reputedly haunted by the ghost of lightkeeper Frederick Osborne, who was killed in a duel with assistant keeper John Stephens in early March 1880. One account had Osborne, apparently a chronic faultfinder, making an inappropriate remark to Stephens' wife, the other had Stephens making unwanted advances on Osborne's wife. At any rate, standing 98 feet apart, Osborne had a pistol and Stephen a shotgun loaded with buckshot. Stephen fatally wounded Osborne and was later acquitted of any charges. Stephens later reported hearing footsteps ascending and descending the tower steps and blamed



it on Osborne's ghost. There's an account of keeper Svendsen's family dog Jinx being constantly harassed by the ghost. Multiple witnesses have reporting hearing the sounds on the steps, including Coast Guardsmen while doing routine maintenance of the light mechanism. The belief is the fastidious Fred Osborne is coming back to check and make sure that the light is properly cared for. On November 30, 2013 a paranormal investigation group called LDL Paranormal, claims to have identified [electronic voice phenomenon](#) (EVP) and recorded them on video with the alleged actual voice of Frederick Osborne. The Video was posted December 3, 2013, and also indicates evidence about Lisa Register who allegedly committed suicide August 19, 1999 by jumping from the top of the lighthouse.

After exploring the lighthouse facility and watching a video, it was off to the Maritime Museum, which used to be a Coast Guard outpost. A long valued part of the local community and region, the Coast Guard Station at East Beach on St Simons remained an active station from 1936 until 1995. Now this treasured landmark, with National Register of Historic Places designation, is preserved by the Coastal Georgia Historical Society, as the Society's Maritime Center. The historic U.S. Coast Guard Station on St Simons Island was one of 45 U.S. Coast Guard Stations built around the country by the Works Progress Administration. Work on the East Beach Station began in the fall of 1935. It is believed to be one of only three surviving stations from that era.



Before and after the tour, many also visited Fort Frederica and other parts of the island.

Fort Frederica was established in 1736 by [James Oglethorpe](#) to protect the southern boundary of his new colony of Georgia from the Spanish in Florida. Colonists from England, Scotland, and the Germanic states came to Georgia to support this endeavor. Named for [Frederick Louis](#), the Prince of Wales (1702-1754), Frederica was a military outpost consisting of a fort and town. The entire area was fortified with a palisade wall and earthen rampart. The fort's location on the Frederica River allowed it to control ship travel. This fort was the key to winning the dispute between the Spanish and British as to Georgia being British territory.



After all the exploring, it was time to meet at the Mullet Bay Restaurant for a very good seafood dinner. If ever in this area, I highly recommend Mullet Bay on St Simons Island. After dinner it was back to the campground for a fire at the pavilion, or the clubhouse for a game of Hand & Foot or Fast Track.



Friday morning everyone was on their own for lunch and sight seeing. Our last arrivals, Joe and Donna Alford arrived in the afternoon, making the total number of coaches in attendance at 24. At 5:30 it was back to the pavilion for a dinner of Brunswick Stew and potluck dishes. Sue blessed the food and the feast began. The Brunswick Stew was delicious! Also, there were many very, very good desserts, of which I sampled too many.



Yvonne stated her stew recipe was a very old one, but I don't know if it was used to make the original Brunswick Stew back in 1898. After the very delicious meal, Ed announced the results of the Occupation Quiz game with Jack the winner and Ted the runner-up. Jack soon had roaring fire in the fireplace, while others went to the club house for more games.

Saturday morning is usually sleep in time for some and this morning was no different, especially with those still feeling the 129 steps to the top of the lighthouse. Still, a few of the ambitious were up early and went sight seeing again. However, lunch was on the agenda, so later in the morning the late risers began to stir and it was soon off to Zachry's Seafood & Steakhouse. Afterwards it was back to the campground. Many of us watched the "RV detail crew" that Ed Durrence hired to wash and wax his



coach. Ed even got involved and polished his aluminum wheels. Later in the evening, it was back to the pavilion for another cozy fire in the fireplace and cards and games in the clubhouse.

Sunday morning it was coffee, juice, and pastries at the pavilion. However, due to the long drive back and rain in the forecast, some left early to get a head start. The rest of us braved the dampness and enjoyed the hot coffee on this cool morning. Around 9:15 AM, we had a short devotional by Ethel Carpenter. Then it was time to say our goodbyes, and except for a few staying over, hit the road on the way home. **A Great Big THANK YOU goes to our Co-Hosts, the Tysons and Williams.** In closing, we want to thank our Visitors for attending our Rally. We certainly enjoyed meeting you and enjoyed your visit with us. **And, John and Jeanette, WELCOME to the Georgia Mountaineers.**



Announcements: If you look at our Rally Schedule, there are two rallies **without any Rally Hosts**, and the Newtons need a co-host for the September Rally. This requires corrective action by our members. Our Chapter and its activities do not run by themselves. It takes support from our members -- and hosting rallies is one of those requirements. With that said, the Rally Hosts are really not required to do a lot. **The main responsibilities of the Hosts are to secure and manage the Club House, greet the Visitors, and make Sunday morning coffee.** Other than that, they are free to do as little or as much as they desire. They do not have to prepare any meals -- only if they want to, and if the facility has the kitchen/grill or whatever for them to do so. You certainly don't have to keep up with the Jones. Just give the Jones a break when they are not hosting. And as for Sunday morning coffee, if you don't know how to prepare it, there is usually someone at each rally that will be more than happy to set the coffee pots up Saturday night, so all that has to be done Sunday morning is to plug them in. So, if **YOU** have not hosted a rally lately, now may be your time. The Rally Guidelines are posted to our website. Print a copy, review them, get another member friend to co-host with you; and, then notify our Wagon Master, Jack White, today and let him know which rally you will be hosting this year.

Additionally, Ethel Carpenter is serving as our Devotional Leader this year. She needs volunteers to do the devotionals at our rallies. If you would like to lead our chapter in a devotional on Sunday morning, please contact Ethel.

***Ted Barrett
Substituting for Brenda Dillon
Newsletter Editor***

Rally Reminder:

April: 22th thru 25th **Pine Mountain RV Resort, an RVC Outdoor Destination.** Pine Mountain GA. Reser Req. 706-663-4329. [8804 Hamilton Road, Hwy 27](http://www.pine-mountain-rv.com) Directions: From I-185 Exit 42 to US-27, go 8.5 miles, enter on the right. See <http://www.rvcoutdoors.com/pinemountainga> **Hosts: Gibbs & Mathises**

May: 20th thru 23rd **Holiday TRAV-L-PARK.** Chattanooga, TN. Reser Req. 800-693-2877. Directions: NB I-75 Exit 1B, SB Exit 1, west on US-41, ¼ mile to Mack Smith Road, go left/south 0.7 mile, RV Park is on the right. <http://www.chattacamp.com> **Hosts: Stutzes & Holkos**

June: 17th thru 20th **Leisure Acres Campground.** Cleveland GA. Reser Req. 888-748-6344. Directions: S-bnd from Cleveland, from jct of US-129 and SR-115 S 3.8 miles to Westmoreland Rd, west 0.5 mi (L). Or N bnd From Clermont N on US 129 to jct of US-129 and Westmoreland Road (2.8 mi N of Jct of US-129 and SR-254) W 0.5 mi on Westmoreland Road (L). See <http://www.leisureacrescampground.com> **Hosts: Carpenters D&E, Durrences, & Burlacks**

President's Message:

It seems a long time since our Christmas Luncheon last December and I hope everyone has gotten the New Year off to a good start. I do know some of us had a very bumpy beginning with health issues or deaths in our families; and, our thoughts and prayers go out to you. Our winter rally vacation is over and with it's passing comes the newness of Spring and a new rally year for our Georgia Mountaineers.

The main purpose of this message is to catch you up on some past and ongoing chapter business regarding our Standing Rules. As most of you know our past President, Ed Williams, submitted a lot of proposed changes, somewhere around 30 or more, to our Standing Rules last October. During our October Business Meeting a motion was made to table these changes until the next scheduled Business Meeting in 2015, which would be in June.

The number of proposed changes makes it almost impossible to handle them efficiently at a Business Meeting. The normal process for rule changes at the SEA and National level is to have them handled by a rules change committee. So, in alignment with what SEA and National do on rules changes, I stood up a Standing Rules Review Committee back in December. This committee is made up of Willard Swanson (chairman), Dave Porter, and Jerry McKellar. Willard is a more senior member, Dave is sorta in the middle, and Jerry is one of our newer members, so the three of them provide a good representation across our membership. Willard has also served as past Vice President/Wagon Master and President of our chapter. They have been tasked with reviewing all the proposed changes and making recommendations as to which ones to reject and which ones should go forward to be voted on for adoption. Within their guidelines they also have the leeway to modify any of the proposed changes and even come up with any new ones they deem are needed to improve our Standing Rules. The target date for their finalized list of proposed changes is the end of the April Rally. Once their list is received, it will be sent to our members in plenty time for review before being brought to the floor for voting at our June Business Meeting. Although it appears this committee had completed most of their work before the March Rally, Willard requested to be replaced and at a meeting on 20 March in the pavilion, his responsibility and chairmanship was transferred to Dorris Carpenter, who has been in the loop during their work.

So, as you see, not all our members have had a complete winter vacation. But, hopefully all of you are ready to enjoy a new rally season of camping fellowship, sight seeing, campfires, games, potlucks and other dinners, and sampling the restaurants; along with taking care of Chapter business. And, if you were unable to make this month's rally at Brunswick, hope to see you in April at Pine Mountain or shortly down the road.

Ted -- President Georgia Mountaineers 2015