

THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

**May 20 -- 24, 2015
Holiday TRAV-L-PARK
Chattanooga TN
Hosts: Holkos & Stutzs**

It has been a few years since our last rally at Chattanooga, but the folks at the TRAV-L-PARK made us feel very welcome. And, there have been some improvements in the park with a lot more gravel on the campsites. This is a very easy park to get to, just a mile or so off Exit-1 as you enter Tennessee from the south. It is a nice clean RV park with some nice shade trees. So, if you are ever in this area, it is just off I-75, Exit-1.



Members Camping: Ken & Margie Alexander, Dan & Jeanie Baer, Ted & Martha Barrett, Hubert & Marsha Brown, Dorris & Ethel Carpenter, Len & Pat Corley, Ed & Patricia Durrence, Paul & Madonna Holko, and Jack & Chris White. Carl Stutz also Bob-Tailed in from time to time to participate and share the co-hosting duties. Freida was able to return home from Florida, but had not recovered her strength enough to attend. This is the smallest turnout for a rally we have had since around 2007, with only nine coaches in attendance and no visitors (at least we thought).



Monday was a travel day for half of our attendees with five coaches arriving during the afternoon. In addition to the Barretts, Carpenters, and Whites, the Corleys showed up in their new Phaeton and the Durrences showed up in their new Aspire. The Barretts arrived in time for lunch at the local Mexican restaurant and everyone had dinner at Wally's, just down the road from the RV park. After dinner, it was back to the RV park and an evening of drizzling rain. But nothing dampened the sprit of the attendees and the pre-rally fun had begun. These new coaches, along with the Cornerstone the Eaves arrived in last month, must indicate there has been a new coach fever outbreak. Sure hope I don't catch it.

Tuesday morning we awoke to partly cloudy skies, with some folks sleeping in a little. But, at lunch time it was a trip to Sticky Fingers at the Hamilton Place Mall and some very good BBQ. After lunch some went shopping in the nearby stores, while others meandered back to the RV Park. The remainder of the attendees arrived in the afternoon, except for the Alexanders, who were expected on Wednesday. In the evening Jack built a cozy campfire by the Barrett's coach and most everyone enjoyed some campfire fellowship.



Wednesday began with partly cloudy skies. Soon it was off to breakfast for some and a little later lunch at various places. The afternoon saw the arrival of our last coach. At 2:30 PM there was a Meet & Greet at the clubhouse, which featured ice cream sundaes and floats. At 5:40 PM it was caravan time to the Amigo Mexican Restaurant. Just before

arriving we had a downpour and many got a little wet getting into the restaurant. But the rain did not dampen our spirits or our appetites and we all had a very good dinner of various dishes from the menu. Back at the RV park, a few gathered around the campfire while others played cards and games in the clubhouse.



Thursday morning began with mostly sunny skies, a good day for a train ride. At around 11:00 AM, we left the RV park for the Tennessee Valley Railroad. There we boarded a train for a six mile trip through the Missionary Ridge Tunnel and back. We stopped at the old East Chattanooga back shop terminal where the engine was disconnected and turned around on their old four man *turntable*, which is now powered by an electric motor system. After a tour of the back shop, where they repair and restore the old train engines and cars,



we reboarded our train for the return leg. From there it was off to Cheddar's Restaurant for some very good onion rings and entrees. Back at the RV park, it was nap time for some. As evening approached, Jack had a roaring campfire going, that was a welcome sight as



the afternoon had turned quite cool. While some bundled up in coats, jackets, and blankets and enjoyed the campfire, others played games in the clubhouse. At bedtime the temperature was down in the mid 50's with a low predicted down into the 40's, a little cool, but very good snuggling weather.



Friday morning was a little chilly, but the sun was out with a high of 75F forecast. Two groups set out breakfast with one going to Wally's and the other to the Cracker Barrel. Most attendees skipped lunch and we heading off to tour the Chickamauga Battlefield. First stop at the museum was to see their collection of rifles used there in the Civil War. There were hundreds of different types, from the very old, to the very new for that period. After a short video it was off to the battle fields.



What was planned as a 90 minute guided tour turned into an almost 200 minute tour. The guide really loved his job. A Memorial Day Picnic dinner of grilled hamburgers and hotdogs was planned for 6PM. However, due to the extended tour of the battle fields, it was almost six before anyone returned to the RV park. Once there we found out friends of Dorris and Ethel, Ron and Belinda Agnew from Winder, had purchased their first motor home that morning, checked our website to see where we would be, and made their first trip to Chattanooga to visit with us. As everyone gathered at the clubhouse, the grill came to life and soon the aroma of burgers and hotdogs filled the air. Our hosts also prepared some very tasty corn on the cob. All that, along with accompanying side dishes and desserts, made for quite a picnic dinner. After dinner it was so late that no games were played, so almost everyone made their way to the campfire for an evening of just relaxing and getting to know our visitors, the Agnews. There was only a one night vacancy at the RV park, so Ron and Belinda departed Saturday morning for home. It was very nice meeting them and we hope they come back to join our Chapter.



Saturday morning brought sunny skies and a little warmer weather, a nice day for a river cruise. At 10:15AM the caravan departed for the river front for a lunch cruise on the Southern Belle River Boat. With it being Memorial Day weekend, the boat was almost full, but we still had a very nice cruise. The lunch was a deli buffet that opened about the



same time the cruise got under way. After a short trip down the river to Lookout Mountain, the boat turned around and cruised northward. It traveled under most of the nearby bridges crossing the Tennessee River before turning south again to return to port. The highlight for the men were all the bikini clad sunbathers on the decks of the boats that were passed. Later in the evening, it was more games in the clubhouse or another cozy evening by the campfire.

Sunday morning it was coffee, juice, and pastries at the clubhouse. 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 Holkos and Stutzs.** Oh, our deputy sheriff Patricia did a great job this rally, until Sunday morning when she showed up without her name tag -- a citizens arrest was immediately made.

Announcements: If you look at our Rally Reminder below, there are two rallies **without any Rally Hosts.** **And, we have had no one step forward to host these rallies!!** Next month we will have a Business Meeting to elect a new Nominating Committee. If you want to serve on this committee, please let me know. 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.

Health, Illness, and Accidents: In closing, it is noted that many of our member are having various health issues. Some of the health issues are more severe than others and some members are in the hospital. **For all of you so afflicted, you are in our thoughts and prayers for a complete and speedy recovery.** And for those of you who have been unable to attend rallies, you are certainly missed!!!

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

Rally Reminder:

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

July: 15th thru 18th **Cove Creek RV Resort.** Sevierville/Pigeon Forge TN, 3293 Wears Valley Rd.
Reser Req. 865-429-7716. Directions: From Pigeon Forge TL #3 approx 8 miles south off Wears Valley Road, after seven miles look for Robeson Road on your left, then a sign that says "Bear Camp Grill" once you see that sign be prepared to turn left into the resort. From Townsend, approx 7 miles north after US-321 separates from SR-73. See <http://www.covecreekrvresort.com>

Hosts: NONE as in NOBODY

August: 19th thru 22rd **Crossing Creek RV Resort.** Blairsville GA. Reser Req. 706-835-1111.
Directions: 136 Mountain Creek Road. Approx 2.5 miles west of town off Blue Ridge Highway, south of airport. See <http://www.crossingcreeksrvresort.com>

Hosts: NONE as in NOBODY