

# THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

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**November 18 - 22, 2015**  
**Sugar Mill RV Park**  
**Ochlocknee, GA**  
**Hosts: Barretts and McKellars**



The Sugar Mill RV Park is located in South Georgia just off US-19, and Thomasville is the nearest town of any size. It is nestled among tall pines with azalea bushes serving as borders between the sites. It is a lovely setting in the spring when the azaleas and dogwoods are blooming.

**Members Camping:** Ron and Belinda Agnew, Ken and Margie Alexander, Van and Miriam Armstrong, Ted and Martha Barrett, Raymond and Donna Birt, Hubert and Marsha Brown, Dorris and Ethel Carpenter, Don and Peggy Crump, Ed and Patricia Durrence, Jerry and Laura Eaves, Doug and Terry Gibbs, Jim and Karen Mathis, Jerry and Irene McKellar, Elwood and Sharon Miller, and Jack and Chris White.

**First Time Visitors:** Eldridge and Bobbie Cannon from Saint Simons Island and Greg and Rita Jones from Albany. We hope you had a good time and will come back again and join our Chapter.



**Monday:** The Barretts arrived early on the 13th and were there for the arrival of the Agnews, Birts, Browns, Carpenters, Durrences, McKellars, and Whites on Monday. That evening everyone but Chris went to Seminole Wind for a feast. We were seated off to the side as there were not busy at the time of our arrival. This allowed us to sit around the tables and visit at length and make too many trips back for more good food. Some let our food settle before going back one more time for a warm cinnamon bun. Oh so delicious!! Then back to the campground for more enjoyment. In addition to the game table in the clubhouse, some sat in on a group of local men enjoying a jam session. The group consisted of two men playing guitars, one playing a banjo and another a fiddle. Others chose to rest and relax in their coaches. What a way to begin a rally.

**Tuesday:** The Alexanders, Armstrongs, Crumps, Eaves, and Mathises arrived today. In the afternoon, Ed and Dorris went to Camping World in Tallahassee, while Pat and Ethel shopped locally and the Agnews visited friends. Ted's nephew Mickey and wife Linda visited with us in the campground. About mid afternoon we were notified that two potentially dangerous criminals had escaped from a work crew, working just about a mile from the campground. Meantime we were told to stay alert and be cautious. That set the conditions for next few days. The area was patrolled continuously by law enforcement officials. And, for the first time ever at a rally, Ted decided to wear his pistol.

**Wednesday:** The Gibbs and Millers were the only couples to arrive today. Many of those arriving yesterday chose to visit the downtown area in the morning, and lunching at the Market Diner before returning back to campground. For those of you that have never been to Thomasville, the Market Diner is well know for its large buffet loaded with a vast assortment of vegetables, meats, and desserts. By Meet and Greet time everyone had arrived where light snacks and soft drinks were served by hosts, the McKellars and Barretts. Dinner was at the El Paso restaurant, which serves some great black bean dip. Not all the attendees made it to El Paso, as they were still trying to digest their large meal at the Market Diner. Later there were games and cards.



**Thursday:** It was “up and at'em” early as this was tour day of the Flowers Bakery. The first tour was scheduled for 9 a.m. and the second at 10 a.m. Tour size was limited to 20 per tour, so it was no surprise that the 10 o'clock tour filled up rapidly. The first tour consisted of seven early birds. The bakery was very noisy with all the machinery up and running. The up side of the first tour was we could gather close enough to hear the tour guide above the noise of the machines. It proved to be more difficult for the second tour,

unless they took turns moving up front. Following the tours, we drove around the downtown area including revisiting the famous Big Oak, until it was time to meet up for lunch at the Market Diner. It has a large buffet bar that serves a wide variety of vegetables and meats along with a salad bar and tasty desserts. We were seated in a quiet room away from the crowd so it was a great place sit around and visit as we made trips back and forth to refill our plates. Afterward most of us returned to the campground to digest all that



food. Listening to the patter on rain on the rooftops provided perfect conditions for taking a nap. We got the good news today that the escapees were believed to no longer be in the area and Ted stored his pistol. A campfire and games were the order of the evening.

**Friday:** Today was a free day for all until the low country boil at 5:30. Most used the time to go to various places. Moultrie was the destination for the Carpenters and the Birts. The Carpenters to visit Ethel's brother while the Birts attended a car show. Many opted to go out for breakfast, followed by more shopping. The weather was beautiful, so it pleasant to be outdoors until time for the evening meal. The work crew of Jerry and Irene McKellar and yours truly prepped the ingredients for the LCB. When it came time to peel the onions, Peggy volunteered to help and her offer was greatly appreciated and accepted. Then it was our turn to rest and leave the cooking to Ted. The aroma of the Low Country Boil filled the air. After a leisurely meal, some played games and the others gathered around the campfire. All in all it was a great day.



**Saturday:** First thing on the agenda today (10 a.m.) was the business meeting. It was called to order with the usual reports; plus the Annual Financial Report showing a current balance of \$1989.26 in the treasurer. Also, the Financial Audit Committee, made up of the

Birts and McKellars, reported all financial records were in proper order. One of the business items of discussion was the Rally Fee. In the end, Jack White moved to temporarily suspend the Standing Rules for one year and implement a \$7.50 rally fee per person. Van Armstrong seconded the motion. Vote for the motion was unanimous. This practice will begin with the 2016 April Rally. If this new set Rally Fee is preferred, proposed changes to the Standing Rules will be presented around October 2016. Next was the Installation Ceremony for the 2016 elected officers. Van Armstrong led the ceremony and administered the Oath of Office to Ted Barrett -- President, Dorris Carpenter -- First Vice President, Jack White -- Wagon Master, Karen Mathis -- Secretary, Don Crump -- Treasurer, Martha Barrett -- Newsletter Editor, Jim Mathis -- National Director, and Jerry Eaves -- Alternate National Director. Next was the reappointment of Ethel Carpenter as Devotional Leader. Absent was Bob Bielemeier -- Sheriff and Kathie Newton -- Sunshine Reporter. They will be reappointed at the Christmas Luncheon. Note, this is the first time that all incumbent officers agreed to sever another term. Your commitment, time, and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Following the meeting, all went in different directions some of the ladies went shopping for one more time, while others stayed in the campground until we met at Seminole Wind for dinner. Once again we enjoyed a leisurely meal with good conversation. Back at the campground it was cards and games in the meeting room and another campfire.

**Craft Workshops:** Donna Birt held small workshops throughout the week with the ladies, where she instructed them in the making of Christmas Bunnies. The ladies enjoyed this so much so much that they asked Donna to plan more craft projects for next year. Donna has graciously agreed to do so and we look forward to next years craft workshops.



**Sunday:** We gathered in clubhouse to enjoy the pastries, bagels, muffins, fruit, coffee, and orange juice and visiting with each other. Afterwards, Ethel gave the devotional. The Hosts were thanked for a great job. With goodbyes until next time, most departed for home. However, a few stayed over for one more visit to the Market Diner for lunch.

***Martha Barrett***  
***Newsletter Editor***

## Announcements:

Annual Dues are past due on 1 December. If you have not renewed your dues, please send your check to Don Crump, PO Box 38, Baldwin GA 30511.

The 2016 Rally Schedule was passed around to the attendees. After making the rounds only three rallies (May, July, & September) still need hosts. If you have not already signed up to host or co-host, be ready at the Christmas Luncheon to sign up to host one of these three remaining rallies. Our Wagon Master has already spent many, many hours in developing the Rally Schedule, so make the remainder of his job easy by signing up to host.

## Rally Reminders:

**December: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Luncheon.** Amicalola Falls State Park Lodge at 11:30 AM, \$22 Buffet. For Details See Flyer. Hosts: Porters & Eaves

Additional Information: The Kare For Kids organization provides necessities for children of Dawson County. These include providing winter coats, shoes, eye glasses, medicine, etc.. They do this through raising funds. Therefore, donations should be either cash or checks payable to KARE for Kids.

**March 2016: FMCA's 93rd Family Reunion and Motorhome Showcase** will be held March 17 - 20, 2016, at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter in Perry. You can register online at FMCA. Country music artists **Mark Chesnutt, Lorrie Morgan, and Joe Diffie** will present "Country Unplugged" on March 19, 2016, during FMCA's Family Reunion in Perry.

**April: 13<sup>th</sup> thru 16<sup>th</sup> Pine Mountain RV Resort, an RVC Outdoor Destination.** Pine Mountain GA. Reservations Required. 706-663-4329. [8804 Hamilton Road, Hwy 27](http://www.rvcoutdoors.com/pinemountainga)  
Directions: From I-185 Exit 42 to US-27, go 8.5 miles, enter on the right. See <http://www.rvcoutdoors.com/pinemountainga> Hosts: Browns & Durrences

