

# THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

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**August 17 - 21, 2016**  
**Great Outdoors RV Resort**  
**Franklin, NC**  
**Hosts: Jim and Karen Mathis**



The Great Outdoors RV Resort is located in a very scenic area of North Carolina. The resort has an excellent club house with a full kitchen, plus a large grill outside. There are many waterfalls in the area and lots of places to visit. US-64, a very narrow and crooked highway between Franklin and Highlands, follows the Cullasaja River, where waterfalls are visible from the road.



**Members Camping:** Ken and Margie Alexander, Ted and Martha Barrett, Raymond and Donna Birt, Dorris and Ethel Carpenter, Don and Peggy Crump, Ed and Patricia Durrence, Paul and Madonna Holko, Virginia Jackson, Fred and Shirley Lee, Jim and Karen Mathis, Wayne and Anne Mickey, Mike and Kathie Newton, Willard and Sue Swanson, Martain and Juanita Welborn, Jack White, and Greg and Rose Zaic.

**First Time Visitors:** Nick and Darlene Knowlton, from Sugar Hill, GA

**Second Time Visitors:** Larry and Carole Hilliard, from Douglas, GA and Sam and Dottie Reese, from Adairsville, GA. Both of these couples joined our Chapter at this rally. Welcome to the Georgia Mountaineers!

**Monday:** Those arriving on Monday were the Barretts, Birts, Durrences, Carpenters, Mathises and Swansons. That evening some dined at the Sunrise Café and others at various restaurants. Then back to our “home on wheels” to rest and relax from our day of travels.

**Tuesday:** Virginia Jackson and Jack White were the only members to arrive today. Parking on the row by the club house was limited and Virginia was parked down on the next lower tier. Many of those that arrived the next day also had to park there as well. Fat Buddies was the “ad hoc” restaurant selected for dinner. Almost everyone found their way there, where some of us ate way too many fried mushrooms. Back at the campground we were told we could not use the clubhouse until Wednesday, the day the rally officially began. Some of us gathered at the Mathis’s campsite, others stayed in their motorhomes.



**Wednesday:** The official start of the rally began today and those arriving were the Crumps, the Hilliards, the Holkos, the Knowltons, the Mickeys, the Newtons, the Reeses, the Welborns and the Zaics. As the Zaics neared the Coal Mountain area they had coach problems. Greg called Ted and explained the problem, between them it was determined it was probably an airbag

issue. Next came networking between Ted, Ed, and Dorris which led to providing Greg with three phone numbers of repair facilities in the area. One came through for him timely. All this resulted in the Zaics arriving safely and in time for the Meet and Greet. Just goes to show you the Georgia Mountaineers are a great bunch of people.



The Zaics appreciated the assistance. "Hats Off" is extended the gentlemen involved helping them. The "Meet and Greet" began at 2:30. Ted introduced campground rally coordinator, Lee Duncan. Lee presented our group with a cake beautifully decorated with our logo. Karen made announcements regarding the rally and the campground. The hosts provided a variety of delicious cookies along with a choice of milk or lemonade. So



between the cake and cookies we all had our sugar fix for the day. This was the largest rally turnout we have had thus far this year. So it was no surprise many lingered longer than usual afterward to visit. We even had a drop in visit from the Mast family. They live nearby and were interested in knowing more about the chapter. Dinner was at Mi Casa. We were seated in two long rows of tables and soon there were lively conversations underway—until the food was served. Then back to the campground for a short break before a game of Hand and

Foot in the club house. Jack built a campfire at his coach, which unfortunately was cut short by a rain shower. To the Great Outdoors RV Resort, thank you for the delicious cake.

**Thursday:** Hooray, we awoke this morning to pleasantly lower temperatures (70's). Our hosts had a full day planned for today. Lunch time found almost everyone at the Motor Company Grill, a 50's style dinner, located on Main Street. The outdoor setting was nice and allowed for good conversation. Following lunch it was only a short drive to the Scottish Tartans Museum and shop. The focus there was on the Scottish Highlands dress and how the Scottish heritage relates to North Carolina History. Based on the large



number attending, they were divided into two groups. The tour guide(s) displayed knowledge and enthusiasm about this part of history and enjoyed sharing it with our group. One guide was especially knowledgeable on the Queen of Scotts. Then it was back to the campground for some down time. For the evening meal we caravanned to Fatz. There we were seated in groups of four to six where we lingered over our meal enjoying good conversation. While at Fatz there was quite a downpour, but it had stopped by the time we left.



However, there was no rain at the campground. It did not take long before there was large table of Fast Track underway with some new players. Ethel was busy in the background as she circled around the table serving as the coach/teacher to the newcomers. Then at another table the avid Hand and Foot players were enjoying themselves. Those that were not in the clubhouse found their way to Jack's campsite where he had the fire pit going until lightning made all flee back to their campsites. Thus, the ending of another

wonderful day with friends.

**Friday:** This was an "on your own" day until the Pot Luck Dinner in the evening. The temperature today was more moderate so sitting outside visiting, shopping, or sightseeing was very pleasant. The Agnews, home from their travels, bobtailed in for the Pot Luck Dinner. They planned their arrival early enough to visit before the meal and staying afterward to play Hand and Foot. It was good to see them again. Oh the Pot Luck Dinner! There was lots of fried chicken and biscuits provided by the hosts. The attendees came through with an abundant variety of tasty side dishes and delicious desserts, plus the cake provided by the campground. All lingered over the meal to visit and share stories and experiences of previous travels. Oh, before dinner, Jack took a show of hands poll of those wanting to put the Hilton Head Island Motorhome Resort on next years Rally Schedule. The reason for the poll was the nightly cost



of around \$54, after a 30% discount. The poll was very positive, so look for it on our 2017 Rally Schedule in March. Do not confuse this RV park with the Hilton Head Harbor RV Resort and Marina, the location of our previous rallies at Hilton Head.

**Saturday:** The morning began with rain showers, but this did not dampened spirits for long. Once the initial showers passed many attended the local fall fair, some lunched at the Gazebo Creekside Cafe; one couple explored Maggie Valley, while others visited a local flea market. One car load found a street named DogGone Circle while exploring. Rain showers quickly put an end to the campfire this evening. Games and good times continued in the clubhouse unfazed by the weather.

**Sunday:** We gathered in clubhouse to enjoy the pastries, coffee, orange juice, and milk provided by the hosts and enjoyed visiting with each other. Wayne Mickey gave the devotional. The Hosts were thanked for a great job. They in turn thanked the Birts for helping them. With goodbyes until next time, most everyone departed for home. Others headed to Asheville NC, Crossville TN, and some stayed over until Monday.

**Note:** In last month's newsletter I mentioned that one gentleman (not to be named) finally got around to cleaning out his stack of magazines. Well, it seems that most of you were not able to guess who that was. So I thought I would provide a clue -- his first name begins with Van.

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



## **President's Note:**

It is with sad feelings that I announce the termination of the Great Outdoors RV Resort as one of our rally RV parks. We have been going there annually since 2010, a total of seven years. For many, this park has been a highlight on our Rally Schedule with an average attendance of 20 coaches. Also, some members and friends who could not camp with us, usually Bob-Tailed in to be at an event or two.

However, the RV park is in the business of making money. And, as a result have revised their rules and regulations regarding rallies. Although our rallies officially begin on Wednesday and end Sunday morning, we usually have a number of coaches show up on Monday and many more on Tuesday. However, this time we were not allowed the use of the clubhouse until Wednesday. Also, their reservations policy and rules were changed. Many folks making reservations early in the year were required to be parked down on the second tier from the clubhouse, while others making reservations just a few days or weeks before the rally where able to be parked on the upper tier in front of the clubhouse. We wound up with about half of our attendees being parked on the second tier and the others parked on the upper tier.

Tuesday evening, since we could not play games in the clubhouse, some of us were sitting under the awning of the Mathis's coach. During the evening Gooch, the manager, came by and talked to us. He explained their reservation policy. Number one, 60 days after our Wagon Master schedules our rally, they will release the 20 campsites they set aside for us. This means that had Jack scheduled a rally next year in the Summer or Fall of 2017, the campsites would be released **this October 20<sup>th</sup>**, not 30 days before the beginning of the rally next year. The reason given here was the RV park had been losing money on unfilled rally reservations. Also, they want to hold only five campsites on the upper tier for our rally attendees. The reason given was if they have some longer term campers who want to be on the upper tier, they did not want them inconvenienced by some campsites not being available up there for a week in the middle of their stay. Note, in most RV parks this policy is just the opposite. If an individual camper there for a long stay wants a preferred campsite, they must move out of that campsite the week of the rally and then move back in after the rally. I think we have all done that from time to time.

In summary, with our attendees being parked totally split on the upper and lower tiers, it did not provide the warmth and closeness that normally comes with attending our rallies. Prior to the end of the rally, Jack took a poll of those who wanted to comeback for an eight year; and not one hand was raised in favor of doing so. The link to their website will be removed from our RV Parks & Links webpage. River Vista Mountain Village in Dillard will still give us access to this area for restaurants and sightseeing.

**Announcement:** Planning for the Christmas Luncheon is underway by our hosts, John and Sandra Long. The date has been set as Wednesday, 7 December. The location will be the Smith House in Dahlonega. The price will be \$15 per person, plus the gratuity. The support of any charity has not been determined at this time. More details will be provided later. Editors note: We have had two Christmas Luncheons at the Smith House before and the food was very good. The room was well decorated and we all had a good time. Recommend you mark your calendars now to attend.

## **Rally Reminders:**

**September:** 14<sup>th</sup> thru 17<sup>th</sup> **River Vista Mountain Village RV Resort.** Dillard GA.  
See <http://www.rvmountainvillage.com> **Hosts: Zaics & Crumps**

**October:** 19<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup> **Spring Lake RV Resort.** Crossville TN.  
See <http://www.springlakervtn.com> **Hosts: Birts & Armstrongs**

**November:** 16<sup>th</sup> thru 19<sup>th</sup> **Coastal Georgia RV Resort.** Brunswick GA.  
See <http://www.coastalgarvresort.com> **Hosts: Carpenters & Agnews**

**December:** 7<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Luncheon -- Smith House.** Dahlonega GA.  
Price \$15 each plus gratuity. More details to follow. Charity TBD.  
**Hosts: Longs**