

THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

**December 7, 2016
Christmas Luncheon
The Smith House
Dahlonega, GA
Hosts: John & Sandra Long**



This year's Christmas Luncheon was held at The Smith House in Dahlonega. This house was established in 1899, and has a very interesting history.



During a not too distant renovation, a round hole was found under a concrete floor. On further investigation, the hole turned out to be a mineshaft to the famous Dahlonega gold vein. The mineshaft is inside the building and can be seen from the entrance to the dining rooms on the ground floor. For those of you who do not know, the gold that covers the dome of the Georgia State Capitol Building in Atlanta came from the gold mines in Dahlonega.

Members Attending: Ron & Belinda Agnew, Ken & Margie Alexander, Van & Miriam Armstrong, Ted & Martha Barrett, Raymond & Donna Birt, Dorris & Ethel Carpenter, Chris & Stella Christopher, Don & Peggy Crump, Ed & Pat Durrence, Jerry & Laura Eaves, Don & Marquita Haines, Virginia Jackson, Darlene Knowlton, John & Sandra Long, Bill & Jo Anne Lyles, Jim & Karen Mathis, Jerry & Irene McKellar, Dave & Donna Porter, Sam & Dottie Reese, Willard & Sue Swanson, Jack White & his guest Zelma, Doug & Sherry Wright, and Greg & Rose Zaic.



John & Sandra, our Hosts, and our President

Guests were Marvin & Patricia Voyna. Patricia is the SEA Regional Vice President for Georgia. Also attending were Jessica Dudley and Paula Nick from The Community Helping Place in Dahlonega, the charity which we were supporting with Christmas gifts for children.



Our luncheon was scheduled from 11:30 AM until 3:00 PM. Although a long drive for some, many started arriving before eleven. In no time the parking lot was busy with the activity of everyone greeting each other and unloading “Santa” packages for the needy children of the area. In total there were 46 people in attendance to close out our 2016 camping year and celebrate the Christmas season

Ted Barrett, the chapter president, opened the meeting welcoming everyone. He introduced Patricia Voyna, SEA Regional Vice President for Georgia and her husband Marvin. He announced that the Bielemeiers were absent today as Eva fell that morning and broke her wrist. He asked all to keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Ted wished everyone a Merry Christmas and turned the luncheon festivities over to Sandra Long.



Sandra began by giving us some background on the charity she and John had selected for this year, the Community Helping Place in Dahlonega. Sandra introduced Jessica Dudley, Executive Director, and Paula Nick, Director of Client Services, who both spoke to our group. We were given some background information on the organization. And, it was stressed that this year the need was especially great in numbers. It was stated research was performed to verify that all of the children are in need and from the area. Both Paula and Jessica were overwhelmed at the amount and quality of the gifts donated by our group. There was enough to fill up the corner of the room under the Christmas tree.

John Long gave the blessing for our Christmas feast. The servers then immediately began placing the bowls and platters of food on each table. We were served fried chicken and Salisbury steak with gravy, accompanied with mashed potatoes, green beans, niblet corn, fried okra, collards, rolls & corn bread muffins, and various special pickles. The bowls were quickly replenished as they became empty. The food was plentiful and very good, and the conversation constant as we enjoyed our meal. The main course was followed by strawberry shortcake and coffee.



Ted then re-opened the program with the installation of Greg Zaic as our Alternate National Director. Greg was unable to attend the November Rally where the other officers were installed. A Thank You for hosting our luncheon was made to John and Sandra followed by a big round of applause. Following a few announcements, he passed around the “dreaded”



sign up sheet for Rally Hosts for the 2107 Rally Schedule. He then invited Patricia to address the group. Patricia updated us on current events at SEA, the SEA Lands at Lakeland Rally, and some of the FMCA benefits to include the FMCAssist Program. Pat gave out cards for this program along with cards for the FMCA partnership with Office Depot.

The program then moved to Sandra who began the drawing of names for the **generous** door prizes provided by **Integrity RV Service Center**, Douglasville, GA and **Apalachee RV**

Center in Auburn, GA. In addition there were some door prizes from the RV parks and restaurants we visit each year. It is great that these two RV service centers and the RV parks and restaurants we associate with provide us with the door prizes. A real big Thank You goes to them.



Gosh, how the time flew! By the time the door prizes were distributed, our allotted time for the room was approaching. Alas, it was time to say our goodbyes for this year. It was during this time that Jessica and Paula gathered up all the gifts from the Christmas tree and again expressed their gratitude for our involvement. Wishing all a safe journey home and a Merry Christmas, we all departed. So Merry Christmas to all and hope to see you at our Hilton Head Island Rally in March or Pine Mountain Rally in April.



***Martha Barrett,
Newsletter Editor***

Rally Reminders:

March: 15th thru 18th Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort. Hilton Head Island, SC. Reser Req. 800-722-2365. 133 Arrow Road. Directions: I-95 Exit 8 (Rt 278) East onto Hilton Head Island (approx 22 miles). Continue straight in left lane onto Cross Island Parkway (toll road 278). Turn left at second light after toll booth onto Target Road. Go one block to end of road and turn right onto Arrow Road. Resort is immediately on left. See

<http://www.hhimotorcoachresort.com>

Hosts:

April: 19th thru 22nd Pine Mountain RV Resort, an RVC Outdoor Destination. Pine Mountain GA. Reser Req. 706-663-4329. 8804 Hamilton Road, Hwy 27. Directions: From I-185 Exit 42 to US-27, go 8.5 miles, enter on the right. See

<http://www.rvcoutdoors.com/pinemountainga>

Hosts: Barretts & McKellars

May: 17th thru 20th Top of Georgia Airstream Park. Helen GA. 14255 Highway 75N, Helen, GA. Reser Req. 706-878-3590. GPS coordinates: 34° 46' 12.64" N -- 83° 44' 46.49" W See <http://topofgeorgia.net>

Hosts: