

# THE MOUNTAINEER



## Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

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**May 17 - 21, 2017**  
**Top of Georgia Airstream Park**  
**Helen GA**  
**Hosts: Christophers & White**

**Top of Georgia RV Park** is an Airstream, members only, park nestled in the mountains just 6 miles north of the Alpine village of Helen on Route 75. The park is very pretty and has a tributary creek to the Chattahoochee River flowing through it. The park is surrounded by mountains yet, the parking grounds are fairly flat and have pretty green grass. It may be one of North Georgia's best kept secrets. The hookups are 30 amp but with dual plug-ins, they provide ample power if you use a splitter. The park is in close proximity of Unicoi State Park and Anna Ruby Falls. The owners are opening up the campground to RV travel groups and the Georgia Mountaineers were the first such group to use it.



**Members Camping:** Chris Christopher, Don & Peggy Crump, Ed & Patricia Durrence, Paul & Madonna Holko, Virginia Jackson, Nick & Darlene Knowlton, Wayne & Anne Mickey, Harry & Linda Sasser, and Jack White.

**Visitors Camping:** Second time visitors Bruce and Judy Diaddigo, who attended our March Rally at Hilton Head Island. The Diaddigos joined the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter at this rally. **Welcome Bruce and Judy!**

**Monday:** Early bird arrivals were Ed and Patricia Durrence with Zoe. They parked next to the stream and slept with the bedroom windows open to hear the cascading water over the rocks. This was sleep heaven for Patricia!

**Tuesday:** Arrivals today were Chris Christopher, Jack White, and Paul & Madonna Holko. Bob-tailing in were Raymond and Donna Birt. The Birts overnighted in Helen so as to attend Wednesday's lunch with Ted & Martha. We all ate at Big Daddy's Restaurant in Helen that evening.

**Wednesday:** Arrivals today were Harry & Linda Sasser, Virginia Jackson, Nick & Darlene Knowlton, Don & Peggy Crump, and second time visitors, Bruce and Judy Diaddigo.

**This day was special** in that we, along with several bob-tailers, joined Ted & Martha for lunch at Café International in Helen. This was Ted & Martha's first appearance with us since Ted had his serious battle with surgery and complications with that surgery. Ted kept expressing how much he appreciated everyone in the group, along with all the prayers, cards, calls, emails, etc. He brought along his Prayer Quilt that was given to him by Darlene Knowlton and



made by Darlene and other ladies from her church prayer group. The day was absolutely gorgeous as we gathered on the porch by the river to eat. There were 26 former and present Georgia Mountaineers attending the luncheon as follows: Ted & Martha Barrett, Bob & Eva Bielemeier, Raymond & Donna Birt, Dorris & Ethel Carpenter, Don & Pat Donnelly, Ed & Patricia Durrence, Dennis & Joyce Horcher, Virginia Jackson, John & Sandra Long, Nick & Darlene

Knowlton, Roy & Kathy Perry, Harry & Linda Sasser, Truett & Elaine Swanson, and Jack White. We do apologize if anyone was left out. Everyone appeared to enjoy each other's company. Café International has a porch overlooking the Chattahoochee River and with the nice weather, it made for a great dining experience. Food included Ruebens, Camel Riders, Brachworsts, and other very good items from their menu.



Several campers went back to the campground including Ted & Martha and Dorris & Ethel Carpenter. We sat under the nearby pavilion by the creek. It was cool with the breeze blowing as we chatted the afternoon away.



Ted once again expressed his thankfulness for the friendship and prayers of everyone. This has been an emotional day



for Ted and Martha. They had to leave for another commitment that evening.



At 5:30 PM, members along with Dave and Pam Schraml (guests) and Bruce and Judy Diaddigo

(visitors) gathered at the clubhouse for our Meet and Greet and a pizza dinner. After we had eaten Jack did the traditional campfire next to the clubhouse. We all then retired to our respective motor coaches for a night of rest. It was a full and wonderful day with all that happened.

**Thursday:** We awakened to another cool morning in the low 60's. The birds were chirping like never and the creek was making that rushing sound. Some sat around visiting with others while some went into Helen to shop and browse. Plus, the Mickeys arrived during the day. Paul Holko had his flying drone and took pictures of our coaches from the air. He did have a crash landing on the Crumps motor home and car. Don did mention a lawsuit. We're sure he was kidding, or was he? Ha!

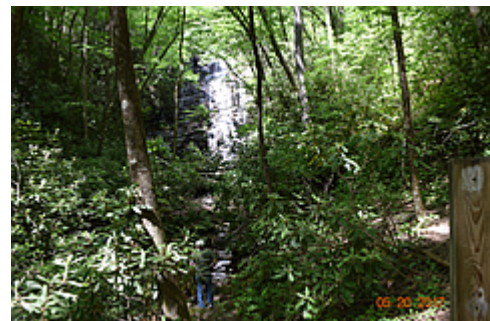


At dinner time we gathered at La Cabana Mexican Restaurant. Wished Ted could have been here!

Feasting were the Durrences, Chris Christopher, Jack White, Holkos, Crumps, Virginia Jackson, Knowltons, Sassers, and Diaddigos. Plus, the Perrys bob-tailed in and joined us for the meal and the campfire that evening. We went back to the campground and joined Jack at the fire pit. Jack knows how to build a great fire, which felt good in the cool night air. The conversations can get right interesting. However, you have to separate fact from fiction in the conversation around the campfire. The creek nearby was sounding off. There was a small dam in which trout enjoyed food tossed to them.



**Friday:** We've had good weather all week and today was no exception. The Sassers decided to do some hiking so they traveled to Horse Trough Falls which is near the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River. They came back telling how beautiful it was. In the evening we all went to Unicoi Lodge for the meal. We were joined by bob-tailers Roy & Kathy Perry, Pat Bryant, Jean Morris, and Ken & Margie Alexander. It was especially good to see the Alexanders. Ken is



recovering from heart bypass surgery and is doing well. He hopes they can join us next month at Cleveland. After the meal we went back to the campground to enjoy the campfire.

**Saturday:** We woke up to clouds today, also to find out that Nick Knowlton was up all night and also his good wife Darlene. Nick had a kidney stone attack and was in extreme pain. Darlene took him to the hospital

for diagnosis and pain medicine. To make a long story short, Nick wound up in the hospital to have a procedure Monday to remove the stone. Keep him in your prayers for a quick recovery. His son and daughter in law came and picked up their motor coach for them.

Jack led a small group up to Horse Trough Falls around noon. The explorers included Jack, Virginia, the Mickeys, the Crumps, and the Holkos. They think that this may be one of the prettiest water falls in the mountains. They did have to hike a short distant to get reach the falls. Since Saturday was a free day there was no evening restaurant planned. The campfire got rained out so we retreated to our coaches.



**Sunday:** We woke up to sprinkles but it slacked up as we enjoyed our meeting for this trip. We gathered at the clubhouse for coffee, orange juice, sausage biscuits, and pastries. We took a quick survey and everyone liked the 5:30 PM Meet and Greet with pizza on Wednesday. We plan on doing that at Leisure Acres in Cleveland. The Durrences and Mickeys are hosting.

Around 9:30 we had a short devotional by our chaplain Wayne Mickey. It was then time to say goodbye and ***“Happy Trails Til We Meet Again”***.

**Ed Durrence and Darlene Knowlton  
Substituting for Martha Barrett,  
Newsletter Editor**

**Editors Note:** A special THANKS go out to Ed and Darlene for writing the newsletter; and, to Jack for taking all the photos. It is greatly appreciated to have members pitch in and help during our absence. Without that support, there would be no newsletter.

**Announcements:** The Eaves need a co-host for our July Rally at Murphy. Also needed are hosts for our October Rally at Crossville and our December Christmas Luncheon. Remember, our Christmas Luncheon hosts get to pick the date, the location, and the charity to be supported.

### **Rally Reminders:**

**June:** 14<sup>th</sup> thru 17<sup>th</sup> **Leisure Acres Campground.** Cleveland GA. Reser Req. 888-748-6344.  
See <http://www.leisureacrescampground.com> **Hosts: Durrences & Mickeys**

**July:** 12<sup>th</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup> **Valley River RV Resort.** Murphy, NC. Reser Req. 828-385-4220. 975  
Regal Road, Murphy. See <http://www.valleyriverrv.com> **Hosts: Eaves**

**August:** 16<sup>th</sup> thru 19<sup>th</sup> **River Bend Campground.** Hiawassee GA. Reser Req. 706-896-1415.  
See <http://www.riverbendcamping.com> **Hosts: Alexanders & Zaics**