

# THE MOUNTAINEER



April 18 – 22, 2018

Pine Mountain RV Resort-

Pine Mountain, GA



On Highway 27

Hosts: Terry & Doug Gibbs

And Jerry & Irene Mckellar



Doug, Terry, Irene & Jerry

**Pine Mountain RV Resort** is just outside of the nice walk around town of Pine Mountain, Georgia. Also It is just down the road from Callaway Gardens and FDR State Park. The Little White House of former President Franklin Roosevelt is nearby at Warm Springs.

**All together we had 50 attendees! One of the largest groups in a long time!**

**Members Camping:** Doug & Terry Gibbs, Jerry & Irene McKellar, Van & Miriam Armstrong, Ted & Martha Barrett, Raymond and Donna Birt, Hubert & Marsha Brown, Dorris & Ethel Carpenter, Ed & Patricia Durrence, Jerry & Laura Eaves, Virginia Jackson, Nick & Darlene Knowlton, Bill & Jo Anne Lyles, Jim & Karen Mathis, Wayne & Anne Mickey, Roy & Kathy Perry, Scott & April Phillips, Steve & Joy Ridenour, Harry & Linda Sasser, Jack White, Doug & Sherry Wright and Greg & Rose Zaic.

**Friends of Georgia Mountaineers Camping:** Ron & Belinda Agnew, Paul & Donna Holko. The Holko's were reinstated as full members. Welcome back friends!

**Previous Members Camping:** Fred & Shirley Lee, who were reinstated as members. Welcome back friends! Also Paul and Madonna Holko were back to join us.

**Second Time Visitors:** Ed & Diane Malin of Alpharetta, Georgia. The Malins joined our Chapter at this rally – **Welcome to the Georgia Mountaineers!**

THE STORY BEGINS:

The Barretts were the early birds arriving for the weekend. They had their Nephew and Niece visiting with them over the weekend at the campground.

**Monday:** The weather was windy and chilly from a cold front as several came in today. The Durrences, Carpenters, Jack, McKellars and Browns. There were no activities except for going out to eat. Some went to the Oyster House and others went to Fox's Pizza.

**Tuesday:** The weather was still cool, and the wind continued to blow. The McKellar's had to leave for the day and go to Jerry's Aunt's funeral in South Georgia. They were able to return and rejoin us today.

**Arrivals today:** Jerry & Laura Eaves, Roy & Kathy Perry, Steve & Joy Ridenour, Van & Miriam Armstrong, Ed & Diane Malin who were visiting for the second time, Paul & Madonna Holko and Doug & Terry Gibbs.

For lunch the Durrences, Carpenters and Barretts went over to Lagrange and ate at the Fried Tomato Buffet and enjoyed great home cooking. After lunch, back at the campground, several sat around and told their latest RV stories and showed off their fur babies.

**Wednesday: Arrivals:** Nick & Darlene Knowlton, Scott & April Phillips, Bill & Jo Anne Lyles, Wayne & Anne Mickey, Virginia Jackson, Doug & Sherry Wright. The weather continued to be windy and cold. By now we have reached 23 coaches. Ted and Martha ate lunch at Juanita's Mexican Restaurant. Several just ate lunch in their coach. After a little afternoon resting and some fellowshipping, then it was time for Meet & Greet at the clubhouse at 5:00 PM. We all enjoyed pizza, ice cream and cake. President Ed Durrence opened the session with his bell announcing that the "2018 TRAVEL SEASON FOR THE GEORGIA MOUNTAINEERS HAD BEGUN"! He reminded everyone to pay Darlene Knowlton the \$10 rally fee. He also reminded them of the special Saturday morning fellowship to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> year award recently presented to us by FMCA SEA in Lakeland, Florida. He also reminded everyone to keep Ken and Margie Alexander in their prayers as Ken recovers from a stroke. Darlene showed us the beautiful prayer quilt for Ken and ask us to tie a knot in the strings to signify we had prayed for him. Ed also ask us to keep Ted and JoAnne in our prayers. Both have received prayer quilts previously. Ed also explained that

at 10:00 AM Saturday everyone possible would gather out under the big “Georgia Mountaineer” banner on Jack’s coach and take an update group picture. The picture along with a written story of our Chapter will be published in the FMCA monthly magazine sometime this year.

After the Meet & Greet, 2 groups met at the clubhouse and played FastTrack while the rest gathered around the fire at Jack’s coach. We haven’t forgotten how to spin and exaggerate camping stories. As usual Jack kept the fire burning while everyone enjoyed the fellowship.

**Thursday: Arrivals:** Ron & Belinda Agnew, friends of the Chapter arrived. They stayed in a cabin on the campground. Raymond & Donna Birt drove in from a nearby cabin.

A large group left the campground at 11:00 AM and drove down to Columbus to tour the Infantry Museum. This was a first-class facility well designed and enjoyed by all. Jack tried his hand at hand to hand combat from a mock Humvee, virtual war, as we sat and watched in amusement at his quick moves. He didn’t know we were watching but the old Sailor has still got it! One of the heroes depicted at the museum was Sergeant Alvin York from WWI which I’ll say more about later. He single handed silenced 35 machine guns and captured 132 enemy soldiers. He was highly awarded. In fact, a movie was made about him starring Gary Cooper. After the tour we all went for an early dinner at the popular Rosehill Seafood Restaurant in Columbus. Everyone seemed to enjoy the delicious seafood.



**Friday:** Today was free. During the day several went antiquing others went to Hill and Dale’s Estate, while the Durrence’s and Zaic’s went to the Bible History Museum in Lagrange.

That evening, 47 gathered for the evening meal at the 3 Little Pigs BBQ Restaurant for a delicious meal. After the evening meal 4 teams gathered at the clubhouse to play FastTrack and one team played Hand & Foot. The camp fire group retired to their coaches due to higher winds and colder air. We appreciate Jack’s faithfulness in building a nice fire every evening.

**Saturday:** Everyone gathered, 9:30 AM at the clubhouse for a time of fellowship, coffee and donuts. We took time to have a little celebration for our 25<sup>th</sup> year as the “Georgia Mountaineers”. Jerry Eaves presented to President Ed Durrence a 25-year certificate along with a \$100 check given to us from the SEA FMCA division. Ed mentioned a little trivia as he was receiving the recognition from Jerry. Jerry is a distant cousin of Sergeant York. Ed recognized Linda Callas Sasser as the only charter member present. Linda told everyone how we began as a travel group along with some funny things. Linda said our name was chosen because we were the only North Georgia FMCA travel group. The other Georgia groups were from other places in Georgia. Ed told our group that we would not really be 25 years old until September and we would have a big celebration at Dillard, Georgia, River Vista RV Resort. We will use the \$100, the ice cream fund, the rally fees and any other funds that we might raise during the year to enjoy our 25 years of existence. We then gathered outside for an update group picture as mentioned earlier. Jack and Ted had their cameras and took the pictures, which turned out great.



That evening at 6:00 PM we all gathered at the clubhouse for a delicious covered dish supper including fried chicken and all the trimmings. Without a doubt the best meal ever. We do have some mighty good cooks and of course Colonel Sander’s chicken is always a hit. There was every good thing you could imagine with deserts.

**Sunday:** The weather was raining as we gathered, 9:00 AM at the clubhouse for coffee, biscuits and sausage, juice, with our traditional devotion by Wayne Mickey. Ed reminded everyone to keep Ken & Marge in our prayers as Ken recovers from his stroke. Note: Ed talked with Ken and they are going to go to Franklin next month with the help of their son. We sure hope they can make it. Also keep JoAnne Lyles and Ted Barrett in our prayers. JoAnne was always smiling this week. We’re so glad she and Bill were able to join us this week. Ed wished everyone “Happy Trails” as we departed. Jack said “See y’all in Franklin next month.

We want to encourage everyone to go to our Website for Future Rally information including hosts info.

If you’ve forgotten the pass word contact Ed or Ted for the correct password.

**Patricia Durrence, Newsletter Editor, With Ed’s help**

**Have you registered for Great Outdoors, Franklin, NC. For the May Rally yet??????? Do so soon!**



Jack with the Mickey's new fur baby. Adorable! The puppy, not Jack. Just kidding!