

THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

August 15 - 19, 2018
Windemere Cove RV Park
Langston, AL

Hosts: Ted & Martha Barrett
Raymond & Donna Birt



Windemere Cove RV Park is located on the backwaters of Guntersville Lake just off County Road 67. It is a very nice, clean RV park with a great clubhouse.

The campsites are large with concrete parking pads and nice grass yards. The back part is on the lake with a boat ramp and very nice boardwalk at the lake's edge. An even greater feature is the management is as friendly and customer oriented as it can get. A big **Thank You** to Angie for making us feel so **Welcome**.



Members Camping: Ted & Martha Barrett, Raymond & Donna Birt, Dorris & Ethel Carpenter, Eldridge & Bobbie Cannon, Ed & Patricia Durrence, Virginia Jackson, Nick & Darlene Knowlton, Jim & Karen Mathis, Mike & Kathie Newton, Sam & Dottie Reese, Harry & Linda Sasser, Jack White, and Greg & Rose Zaic.

Visitors: Andy & Theresa Murray from Rome and Ron & Gail Smith from Chattanooga, TN. Plus Second Time Visitors were Paul & Nancy Carrier from Tifton and Jim & Janice Hamby

from Boone, NC. **The Carriers and Hambys joined our chapter while at this rally. Welcome to the Georgia Mountaineers.** Regrettably, Larry & Judy Chester from Palmetto had to cancel due to him injuring his knee. We wish Larry a speedy and complete recovery.

Guests: John & Doodle Schoolfield from Kenton, TN came as guests of Ron & Gail Smith and Raymond & Donna Birt. Kenton is in the very northwest corner of Tennessee. Plus we had Betty & Jim Duncan from Huntsville, AL attend the rally. Betty is the FMCA South East Area President and it was a great pleasure to have her and Jim visit with us.

Bob-Tailing: Staying down at Guntersville State Park were Ron & Belinda Agnew, who came in Thursday and for the remainder of the week.

Monday: The Barretts arrived the previous Friday to scout the area and had the weekend to themselves to enjoy driving some of the back roads and pig trails across the eastern ridge overlooking the Tennessee River. For a weather update, it had been raining in Gilmer County everyday for the past few weeks, and there was a short rain shower the morning we left. The drive over was under partly cloudy skies that cleared to complete blue skies, and clear blue skies and sunshine were enjoyed the whole weekend. This morning began the same and around noontime the Birts and Jack arrived from two different directions. Then came the Durrences and Carpenters. Later that afternoon, they found that Andy & Theresa Murray from Rome were already here, as they own one of the campsites. Except for the Murrays, the group went to Western Sizzlin for dinner and enjoyed their buffet or their Chopped Steak special of the day. Afterwards it was back to the campground where some did some exploring of the boat dock area, while others just rested from their trip to get here.

Tuesday: Another sun shiny day welcomed the campers as they begin to stir. The hosts were off to the grocery store to purchase the items for the Low Country Boil. From there it was to Margaritas Mexican Restaurant for a light lunch. Others went to Payne's Sandwich Shop for a humongous Dagwood sandwich, which they followed up with an even bigger



Banana Split. Midday saw the arrivals of the Carriers, Schoolfields, and Smiths. For supper all 15 campers went to The Docks at Goose Pond for a dinner of seafood. On return it was

down to the fire pit for a large campfire, and some very tall tales, to bring the evening to a close.

Wednesday: Again, it was another sun shiny day and many in the group went to the South Sauta Creek Café for breakfast. This is one of only two places to eat that is near the campground. For other places, it is a minimum of 15 miles one way. Not only was the café close by, it was nice and clean, and the food was very good. For lunch, a few more tried out those great bit Banana Splits at Payne's. The afternoon saw the arrival of six more coaches, the Reeses, Zaics, Duncans, Knowltons, Jackson, and Mathises. At 2:00PM it was Meet &



Greet time in clubhouse. Ted welcomed the Visitors and Guests and went over some changes in the Rally Agenda. Betty Duncan talked about some of the member benefits that FMCA offers. Some are free for just being a member, some have fees, and some are partnership agreements with various commercial vendors that offer very good discounts or special programs. Either way, it makes one realize the true value of our membership in FMCA, not counting the greatest value: that of belonging to a local chapter like the Georgia Mountaineers. After Betty, Ed brought us up to speed on what is happening in our Chapter. Later for dinner it was off to Western Sizzlin again where we enjoyed the Early Bird special of a \$4.99 seniors dinner buffet. We will probably all go home from this rally just a few

pounds heavier. Back at the campground, it was games of Hand & Foot and Fast Track in the clubhouse. Plus, Jack had another roaring campfire down by the lake, where the tales got taller.

Thursday: Once more the day began with sunshine and a blue sky. It was another open day for sight seeing, some shopping, and various places for lunch. In the afternoon the remaining attendees



arrived: the Cannons, Sassers, Newtons, and Hambys. They setup in what had turned into quite a hot day. It was amazing to see how quickly the electrical connections were made to get their air conditioners running. For dinner it was off to 50 Taters in Scottsboro. 50 Taters is Scottsboro's number one ranked restaurant. It's not that large, but they had our seats reserved in a restaurant that was completely full. The food was very good



and everyone was surprised at how quick our orders were delivered. Good service and good food at reasonable prices; that's hard to beat. As we arrived back at the campground, the weather looked a little threatening, but the rain held off. In the clubhouse it was more games of Hand &

Foot and Fast Track. There must have been a previous rift at the Fast Track tables, as the two games were segregated. The men were all at one table and the women at another?? Although the weather looked like rain, it did not deter Jack and the others who love a campfire. It brought back memories of them sitting around the campfire with umbrellas last May at The Great Outdoors RV Resort in Franklin, NC.



Friday: The sunshine was gone and the morning was overcast and cloudy. A check of the weather forecast showed rain for Saturday and Sunday, but the chance of rain was a minimum for today. It was again an open day except for the Low Country Boil on the agenda for dinner. So some went to breakfast and, again, others went shopping or sight seeing. Some skipped lunch in anticipation of feasting later at dinner. Around 4:30PM most everyone began arriving at the clubhouse for an hour of comradery while the Low Country Boil was underway. Right on time at 5:30, the large pot of potatoes, onions, smoked sausage,



corn on the cob, and shrimp was dumped and the serving line was formed. A few moments later it seemed a little strange in the clubhouse, as previously there had been a loud din of noise from all the chatter. But now it was eating time and the room was very quiet as compared to before.



The initial serving line put a large dent in the pile of food; and as time went by, and diners went back for seconds and thirds, the large pile of food soon became a small pile of leftovers. Yes leftovers, nothing went into the trash. The remaining food was put into zip lock bags and was taken back to various coaches to be eaten another

day. As with previous Low Country Boils, almost everyone really enjoyed it. Or either they just felt obligated to make the 15 pounds of potatoes, 15 pounds of shrimp, 12 pounds of sausage, and a large number of onions and pieces of corn on the cob disappear. Right after dinner the rain came, trapping everyone in the clubhouse for a while. Games of Hand & Foot and Fast Track were soon underway, but the rain gave Jack a night off from starting a campfire.



Saturday: The rain from Friday night continued into the early morning hours, but had stopped by dawn. We awoke to a partly cloudy sky and it remained that way during the day. The Newtons went caving and covered the three main caves in the area. Cathedral Caverns, Russell Cave, and Sauta Cave are all within 45 miles of the campground. Each one has their special features and history. Sauta

Cave is the home of the largest colony of Gray Bats east of the Mississippi. Like Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico, there is a large exit of bats from the cave around dusk each evening. If you didn't make it to the caves this rally, recommend you put it on your agenda of things to do, if we have another rally here. For dinner it was off to Top of the River in Gunterville. This is a very, very large two story seafood restaurant on Gunterville Lake. There was a large group in attendance, but we were missing one couple. Some



how or nother, they went to the Top of the River in Gadsden—imagine that. I won't identify them, but their last name begins with a "Z" and her first name is one of our favorite flowers. It is hoped their experience in Gadsden was as good as the service and food at Guntersville. Without reservations, the whole group was seated quickly. We were on the second floor and the great view of the lake from the pictures windows added to the dining experience. We will have to go there again for sure. With no rain in sight, there was another roaring campfire down



by the lake with more games in the clubhouse.

Sunday: Although the forecast was for rain, we awoke to mostly clear skies. The coffee was perking by 8:00AM and after a small breakfast of pastries and muffins, Raymond enlightened us with a short devotional. Then it was time for goodbyes until our next rally, and most departed for home. In closing, we hope our Visitors and Guests enjoyed the rally. We certainly enjoyed having you and getting to meet you. A special appreciation goes to Betty & Jim Duncan for coming and visiting with us, and remember, you are always welcome.



Announcements: The Nominating Committee released the names of their candidates for next year's officer positions. They are:

Raymond Birt
 Steve Ridenour
 Jack White
 Donna Birt
 Treasurer
 Newsletter Editor
 National Director
 Alt National Director
 Sunshine Reporter
 Sheriff
 Devotional Leader
 Webmaster

President
 First Vice President
 2nd Vice President/Wagon Master
 Secretary
 Darlene Knowlton
 Ethel Carpenter
 Ed Durrence
 Greg Zaic
 Anne Mickey
 Harry Sasser
 Wayne Mickey
 Ted Barrett

The election will be in October with the newly elected and appointed officers taking their positions during the Business Meeting in November. Remember, the candidates above are the Nominating Committee's proposals. Before you vote, as a member, you need to find out where they stand on the issues, e.g., more or less rallies, higher rally fees, for towables or against towables, more or less campfires. The election is open to anyone that wants to seek office, and they can be nominated during the October Business Meeting.

Remember our 25th Chapter Anniversary/Homecoming is coming up next month while we're in Dillard! Our theme is "Happy Days" with a little bit of Mel's Diner mixed in. Everyone is encouraged to attend, including our former members. Come join in and help us celebrate 25 great years of fun and lasting friendships that have been made throughout the years - not to mention good food and treats to boot. We will have our own DJ playing music from the 50's and 60's and who knows what else might happen? Dressing for the era is encouraged but not necessary, but poodle skirts are welcome. Photos can be taken with the stars...lol! Looking forward to seeing everyone and having a lot of fun!

Alert, we still do not have hosts for our Christmas Luncheon. **It is time for some of our members who have not hosted a rally recently, to step up to the plate and do your part.** Remember, you get to select the place, date, time, and which charity to support. And the restaurant normally does all the work. If interested and willing, please contact our Wagon Master, Jack White.

Ted Barrett
Newsletter Editor

RALLY REMINDERS:

September: 19th thru 22nd River Vista RV Resort. Dillard GA, Reser Req. 706-746-2722.
See <http://www.rvmountainvillage.com> **Hosts: Carpenters & Durrences**

October: 17th thru 20nd Palmetto Cove RV Park. Cleveland SC. 521 Table Rock Road.
Reservations required with Jack. 864-836-6221. See <http://www.palmettocove.com>
Hosts: Mickeys & Perrys

November: 14th thru 17th Coastal Georgia RV Resort. Brunswick GA. Reser Required.
912-264-3869. See <http://www.coastalgarvresort.com> **Hosts: Cannons & Birts**

December: Christmas Luncheon. Still need Hosts to set up. Contact Jack White.