

THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

July 18 - 22, 2018
Valley River RV Resort
Marble, NC

Hosts: Jim & Karen Mathis



Valley River RV Resort is located right off US-19/74/129 a little north of Murphy, NC. It is just west of US-19 opposite Casino Blvd, which is on the east side of the highway. This is a new RV park that was supposed to open in June 2017, but did not make it until August of that year. We had a July Rally scheduled there, but had to reschedule it twice and finally had to cancel it due to the RV park not opening in time. So, it was placed on our 2018 Rally Schedule. To make up for us having to cancel our rally last year, the RV park had originally offered us a Chicken & Pork BBQ dinner one night and a biscuit and gravy breakfast on Sunday morning. But, as the rally time got closer, they reneged on their promise. The breakfast was dropped and the BBQ dinner was changed to just chicken.

Since this is a new RV park for us, thought I would provide a little more details about it. The park is still experiencing some new RV park pains, yet has already begun construction on Phase II. The office is located in the very large and rustic clubhouse at the entrance of the RV park. The clubhouse has a very nice kitchen and very large covered patio in the rear over looking the lake. There are no trees in the area of the campsites, and based on what happened in Cleveland last month, that is a real positive. The campsites are level and have nice wide concrete parking areas. Plus, they have about a 10' x 15' concrete patio. However, the camper on our campsite before us must not have been satisfied with the existing patio and put down about a 10' x 12' carpet on the adjacent grass. As a result, the grass was dead in that area. The RV park now has a no carpet rule. They have cable TV, but without trees to interfere with satellite reception, those folks with satellites did not use their cable. It looks like they did not put out grass sod on the campsites, but seeded them. And they need to reseed the campsites again, as there are many bare spots between the existing grass plants. The pool was closed when we arrived and stayed closed the whole time we were there. In looking at the Phase II campsites, they appear to be much smaller and closer together than those in Phase I. In Phase II, it looks like some of the slideouts will

almost be overhanging the patio of the adjacent campsite. In summary, this is an RV park with Resort in their title. However, they have a long way to go meet to the expectations of a resort. And for us, Valley River did provide part of the perks they promised, but their overall level of service, amenities, and hospitality did not meet our expectations.

Members Camping: Ted & Martha Barrett, Raymond & Donna Birt, Dorris & Ethel Carpenter, Ed & Patricia Durrence, Larry & Carole Hilliard, Virginia Jackson, Nick & Darlene Knowlton, Jim & Karen Mathis, Wayne & Anne Mickey, Mike & Kathie Newton, Roy & Kathy Perry, Steve & Joy Ridenour, Harry & Linda Sasser, Jack White, Doug & Sherry Wright, and Greg & Rose Zaic. We had three cancellations due to health issues. The first were Hubert & Marsha Brown, next were our co-hosts Scott & April Phillips, and on Wednesday morning Ken & Margie Alexander. We hope they are doing better and will soon be able to camp with us again.



Visitors: First Time Visitors were Paul & Nancy Carrier from Tifton, Jim & Janice Hamby from Boone NC, and Jim & Barbara Armstrong from Macon. We hope you had a good time and will come back and visit with us again. Second Time Visitors were Tom & Jan Danielson from Clarkesville, David & Nancy Jones from Ellijay, and Johnny & Cat Martin from Liberty, SC. A great big **WELCOME** goes to the Jones, and Martins, who joined the Georgia Mountaineers while at the rally

Bob-Tailing: Joe & Connie Gallagher, Bob & Eva Bielemeier, and Chuck & Allene Connor, all who live in the area. Plus Ron & Linda Agnew stayed in a nearby cabin

Monday: The Barretts arrived just before noon to find they were the early birds. Right after lunch the Durrences arrived and not long after that came the Carpenters. Soon the Birts arrived followed a little later by the Carriers from Tifton. Back to the new RV park pains, the power pedestal for both the Durrences and Carpenters had only one live leg on 50 Amp service. An electrician was called out, but was unable to correct the problem. So, they plugged into 30 Amp service for the meantime. For dinner, a group of eight went to Brother's Restaurant in Murphy. After their return from dinner, the Mathises arrived for a total of six coaches on this day. Also, dirt/mud appeared in the RV park's water system

and they told us they would flush the system on Tuesday morning. If it was flushed, it did not correct the problem as we had orange water off an on for the remainder of the rally.

Tuesday: The morning was cloudy and overcast and it stayed that way until early afternoon. Before lunch time, the Carpenters and Durrences were moved to different campsites, as the power problem at their campsites was not corrected. And, hopefully the water system was sufficiently flushed. Right after noon time coaches began to arrive, including the Danielsons, Perrys, Mickeys, and Jack White. Later, the Perrys had to move to another campsite as the water was cut off at theirs. For dinner, a small group when to the Downtown Pizza Company and enjoyed a salad and pizza buffet.

Wednesday: An improvement in the weather brought out a blue sky and it stayed that way all day, bringing along with it some much warmer temperatures. A little after noon the Wednesday arrivals began to come in and set up. They included Virginia Jackson, the Hamby, Jones, Knowltons, Martins, Newtons, Saspers, Wrights, and Zaics. Around 4:30PM some



of the campers began making their way down to the clubhouse for the Meet & Greet that began at 5:00. It was a surprise to find Bob & Eva Bielemeier there, along with our other two bob-tailing couples Ron & Belinda Agnew and Joe & Connie Gallagher. After a blessing and an introduction of our visitors, it was time for chili dogs, dogs with sauerkraut, or just plain ole hotdogs.

Besides the accompanying potato chips, a good selection of desserts showed up and most of the food was consumed. Afterwards it games in the clubhouse and a big group around the campfire at Jack's coach.



Thursday: Like Wednesday, the day began with sunshine and soon most were up and stirring about. Chuck and Allene Conner arrived for a visit with the Barretts and a few other senior members. Lunch was open on the Rally Agenda, so most

everyone went their own way to various places. One small group went to lunch at Monte Alban. In the afternoon, it was time for Arts & Crafts with Donna Birt. This



month's craft was a little mouse trap with a cute little mouse. During the afternoon, Jim & Barbara Armstrong arrived along with the Hilliards. A dinner of BBQ chicken, baked beans, and potato salad was provided by the campground. That, along with the many desserts brought in to accompany the meal, provided quite a feast. After dinner, it was games again in the clubhouse and another group gathered around the roaring campfire Jack as started. A little after dark, the Ridenours finally arrived, completing our group of attendees. And later as the campfire embers died, it brought an end to a nice sunny day that was more along the normal for the Smoky Mountains, with a high of only 87F.



Friday: The day began with another morning of sunshine that became partly cloudy to keep the temperatures down until after lunch. And lunch was at Shoebooties in downtown Murphy. We were seated downstairs in a room to ourselves. And they provided a \$13 menu that included the entree, sides, drink, tax, and tip. Most everyone enjoyed their lunch and paying the fixed amount of \$13 made settling our checks very easy. Later in the evening it was



movie night in the clubhouse, with our hosts providing popcorn and soft drinks. Not all attended the movie as there was a serious game of Fast Track in the next room.



Saturday: Unless a real heavy sleeper, one was awoken around 2:30 this morning by very loud thunder and heavy rain. Memories of being parked on a creek bank with very tall trees immediately flooded my mind. However, they were soon replaced by the reality there were no nearby trees. Still, one had to inspect the temporary patch on the roof to see if it was leaking and the rain was coming in. Thank goodness the patch held and all was dry. On and on the thunder rolled and the lightening flash, but we were safe from the cold rain on this now sleepless night. The rain continued until a little after daylight before it gave way to bright sunshine. Lunch today was at Murphy's Chophouse. Almost everyone participated, and it seems that all were very pleased with



their meal and commented how delicious the food was. The afternoon consisted of naps and sightseeing. At the beginning of the evening, the rains came again. So most folks went the clubhouse for games, however the rain stopped right before dark, and it was not long before smoke and the aroma from Jack's campfire welcomed those that were not in the clubhouse.



Sunday: We gathered in clubhouse to enjoy a breakfast of Jim's famous biscuits, gravy, and sausage. Seven words can accurately describe Jim's breakfast: **GOOD BISCUITS, GOOD GRAVY, GOOD SAUSAGE, and SECONDS.** And quite a few did make a second trip to the serving bar. The devotional was given by

Devotion Leader Wayne Mickey. After breakfast, it was time for goodbyes until next time, and most departed for home.

Announcements: A big thanks goes to our Hosts, the Mathises, for having to go it alone due to Scott's knee problem. However, it was obvious that a good number of attendees pitched in and helped. And that is always appreciated. We still need Hosts for our Christmas Luncheon. Remember, you get to select the place, date, time, and which charity to support. And the restaurant normally does all the work. If interested, please contact our Wagon Master, Jack White. **Also, the Georgia Mountaineers are featured in the FMCA Chapter Spotlight in the August Edition of Family RVing.**



Hope to see you at Windemere Cove RV Resort in Alabama; it will be Low Country Boil time.

**Ted Barrett
Newsletter Editor**

RALLY REMINDERS:

August: 15th thru 18th **Windemere Cove RV Park.** Langston, AL. 10174 Co Rd 67, Langston, AL. Reser Required. 256-228-3010 See <http://www.windemerecove.com>

Hosts: Barretts & Birts

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