

THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

November 13 - 17, 2019
Coastal Georgia RV Resort
Brunswick GA
Hosts: Cannons & Reeses



The Coastal Georgia RV Resort is a great place to hold a rally. This was our ninth rally here and most everyone seems to really enjoy the area, especially the islands. The resort has been planning on expanding the park for sometime and adding a new clubhouse to replace the requirement to use the existing pavilion. They began work last year and it has been a long and drawn out process. The new concrete parking pads have been poured and of the 51 additional campsites most of them are side to side, or awning to awning buddy campsites. They still have to finish the new buildings, pave the streets, and do the landscaping, but they hope to be completed by the end of this year. Once completed, the new clubhouse should be a great place to enjoy during future rallies.

Members Camping: Ted & Martha Barrett, Raymond & Donna Birt, Dorris & Ethel Carpenter, Eldridge & Bobbie Cannon, Ed & Patricia Durrence, Jerry & Laura Eaves, Doug & Terry Gibbs, Virginia Jackson, Jim & Joanne Mason, Jerry & Irene McKellar, Wayne & Anne Mickey, Scott & April Phillips, Sam & Dottie Reese, Jack White, Larry & Martha Winesett, and Doug & Sherry Wright. Bill Lyles also Bob-Tailed in for the whole rally.

Visitors Camping: There were no First Time Visitors this time. John Sakers and Francis Hogan from Acworth had to cancel due to a death in the family. However, we had two couples as Second Time Visitors. They were Paul & Leann Appel and Frank & Cathy Williams. Both couples joined our Chapter at this rally — Welcome to the Georgia Mountaineers. Also planning on attending were Terry & Wanda Stephens from Dawsonville, but they had to cancel due to health issues in the family.

Sunday was a good day travel wise and when the Barretts and Reeses arrived, they found the Phillips already there. After a long seven hour trip to get to Brunswick from north Georgia, the Barretts went to the Ole Times Country Buffet for dinner and were joined by the Cannons who drove over from St Simons Island. This business had just completed the building of a large new restaurant behind their old building and tore the old one down. Not

only was there room for more diners, but also more room for expanding the buffet. If you like buffets, this is a nice restaurant and the food was very good.

Monday was a beautiful day and saw the arrival of the Birts, McKellars, Jackson, Reeses and White. Dinner that night was a split affair with six members going to the Golden Corral to enjoy a free dinner for the veterans and the others going to B & J's Steak & Seafood in Darien for some very tasty shrimp. The Golden Corral had a long line, which extended outside the restaurant and past the corner of the building. However, they handled the crowd with great professionalism. And, they did not run out of any food. They must have had many extra cooks on the job, along with the waiters and those handling the seating.

Tuesday began as a clear warm day, but by early afternoon the clouds had appeared and it was sprinkling rain. Those arriving were the Appels, Cannons, Carpenters, Durrences, Eaves, Masons, Miceys, and Winesetts. The sprinkling eventually turned into rain, but it did not deter a group of eight traveling to Darien to B & J's again to enjoy another dinner of seafood and great tasting fried shrimp. Nearing the darkness the rain ended, but the temperature dropped dramatically on down to freezing before morning the next day.



Wednesday began as a blustering windy, cold day. Not many campers were seen outside, except for those arriving this day, which were the Gibbs, Williams, and Wrights. Around 2:15 PM a group in their heavy coats made their way to the meeting room next to the office for our Meet & Greet. This is a small room, but we all made it in and officially kicked off our last rally of the year. Raymond introduced our visitors and Bobbie Cannon went over the Rally Agenda. Afterwards, most stayed on a while to greet the visitors and rekindle old friendships with the other members. For dinner it was off to the Ole Times Country Buffet, where it was taste bud testing time. They have a huge buffet that includes a complete salad bar, meats and vegetables, many other dishes, and a large selection of desserts. Some even tried the pigs feet and chitlins. However, others were a little more conservative with the testing of their taste buds.



Thursday morning brought another cold day, but the wind had died down, therefore it did not feel near as cold as Wednesday. So around 10:00 AM everyone headed to Jekyll Island

for a tour of the Mosaic Museum and a trolley tour of the historic homes and buildings of the Jekyll Island Club. The tour guide was very knowledgeable and narrated almost nonstop as the trolley made its way through the community of historic homes and buildings that use to be the winter play ground of the ultra rich. The Jekyll Island Club was a private club on Jekyll Island, on Georgia's Atlantic coast. It was founded in 1886 when members of an incorporated hunting and recreational club purchased the island for \$125,000 (about \$3.1 million in 2017) from John Eugene du Bignon. The original design of the Jekyll Island Clubhouse, with its signature turret, was completed in January 1888. The club thrived through the early 20th century; its members came from many of the world's wealthiest families, most notably the Morgans, Rockefellers, and Vanderbilts. The club closed at



the end of the 1942 season due to complications from World War II. In 1947, after five years of funding a staff to keep up the lawn and cottages, the island was purchased from the club's remaining members for \$675,000 (about 7.5 million in 2019) during condemnation



proceedings by the state of Georgia. The State tried operating the club as a resort, but this was not financially successful and the entire complex was closed by 1971. The complex was

designated a historic landmark in 1978. It was restored and reopened as a luxury resort hotel in 1985. Today, Jekyll Island Club Hotel is a member of the Historic Hotels of America.

The tour included two stops. One was a visit of the William Rockefeller home. While these homes belonged to the ultra rich, they were plain and simple by their normal standards, as the club was supposed to be just a hunting resort for use during January, February, and March. There were club rules to prevent the homes from being ostentatious. The other stop was a visit to Faith Chapel, which was built in 1904. Built exclusively for use by the Jekyll Island Club's prestigious members, the Chapel is now a romantic setting for weddings. Beautifully stained cypress shingles grace the interior and exterior, and unique architectural features such



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gargoyles make it a glorious, gothic-revival style setting. The richly intimate interior features elegant hardwoods, pine heart wood, and two brilliantly colored stained glass windows, one of which is signed *Louis Comfort Tiffany*. Tiffany is an American artist and designer who is best known for his work with

stained glass. One of the features of the tour, besides all the old homes, is seeing the many large Live Oak trees loaded with Spanish Moss.



After the tour, the group struck out to different places for lunch with a small group of nine enjoying a delicious Mexican lunch at 5 De Mayo Mexican Grill. Later for dinner it was off to Jinright's Seafood House for a feast of seafood. And, that's when the rain began.

Friday morning was a continuation of the rain that poured down all Thursday night. Later in the morning the rain had changed to just a mist, but still not many folks got up and

stirred around. But some of the women made it to Crafts at 11:00AM that was hosted by Donna Birt. A few then went to lunch, but most stayed in their coach for lunch. For dinner the group went to the Marshside Grill. The menu there ranged from seafood and hamburgers to Mexican. From the feedback, all the various dishes ordered were very, very good. Some even said the best they had ever eaten. Then it was back to the campground for games or to gather around the campfire. One note here, it drizzled or rained all day and then started raining again during the night. This has been one of the wettest rallies in the history of the Georgia Mountaineers.



Saturday morning we awoke to more rain that turned into a mist to heavy drizzle again. But it was rise and shine time for the Business Meeting at 10:00 AM. The main item on the agenda was the Installation of Officers for 2020. Dorris Carpenter did the honors of the administering the Oath of Office to President Raymond Birt, First Vice President Sam Reese, Second Vice President & Wagon Master Jack White, Secretary Donna Birt, Treasurer Bill Lyles, Newsletter Editor Ted Barrett, and National Director Ed Durrence. Raymond then appointed Dottie Reese as our new Sunshine Reporter and reappointed Ted Barrett as Web Master. For other details of the Business Meeting, read the minutes which should be posted on our website. After the meeting some went various places for lunch, but most returned to their coach to watch the college football games that began at 12:00 noon. That evening it was back to the small meeting room for fried chicken, yeast rolls, and a variety of accompanying dishes. The food was very good, but was also interrupted by keeping track of the Georgia/Auburn game on the TV in the adjacent game room. After dinner, most folks went back to their coach to finish watching the football game. Georgia was ahead 21 to 0, but barely held on to win 21 to 14.



Sunday morning it was coffee, ham biscuits, sausage biscuits, and some fruit in the small room next to the office. Around 9:25 AM there was a devotional by Wayne Mickey. This was Wayne's last Sunday as the Devotional Leader. David Jones will replace Wayne next year in this position. Thank you Wayne for your faithful service for the last three years. Then it was time to say our goodbyes, except for a few staying over, and hit the road on the way home. **A Great Big THANK YOU goes to our Co-Hosts, the Cannons & Reeses.** In closing, we want to thank our Visitors for attending our Rally and joining our band of merry travelers. **Frank & Cathy Williams and Paul & Leann Appel, WELCOME to the Georgia Mountaineers.**

Travels:

The Eaves: Jerry & Laura enjoyed a trip to Riverside, California left June 27 in their Motor Home to celebrate her 80th birthday with her brothers and sisters. Pictures were posted on Facebook. From there they drove to Mesquite, NV, then Salt Lake City followed by Idaho Falls, camping next to the Snake River on their way to Big Sky, Montana for an AIM Rally (All Inclusive Motorhomes). They were parked with around 50 other large MH's side by side on a ridge dry camping next to a large resort where they enjoyed 3 meals a day along with great entertainment one being a ride on the Skylift. Though it rained every afternoon around 4pm the fun outweighed the discomfort.



From there the Eaves continued on to Sturgis, SD for yet another AIM Rally arriving July 20 where the famous Motorcycle Rally is held each year. The place where several weeks before the AIM Rally, there were Motorcycles everywhere. The Eaves left this Rally early due to both Jerry and Laura having serious back issues, so they headed home camping at various places including Sioux Falls, SD, Marshall Junction, MO then Clarksville, then home for some much needed visits to their doctors. Laura has improved dramatically while Jerry is scheduled for back surgery November 19, right after attending the Brunswick Rally.

The McKellars: Jerry and Irene took a 5 month trip out west this summer. They left home on 16 May 2019, went to where motor home was parked in south Georgia and visited family for a few days before traveling toward Lake Texoma on the Texas and Oklahoma border. They dodged storms along the way around Texas. Rocky Mountain National Park at Estes Park, Colorado was on their list to visit again this year on the way to Montana to visit their youngest son, Jeremy. When they arrived in the park to setup it started hailing and that made for a cold, wet setup with them wearing just shorts and short sleeves. That was the first cool weather they had encountered.

From Estes Park, Colorado they traveled to Yellowstone's Edge RV Park in Paradise Valley near Emigrant, Montana for a three week stay. Their site was on the Yellowstone River but the water was too high and fast from snow melt for Jerry to fly fish. They visited Yellowstone National Park daily enjoying the scenery and scoping for wildlife. On June 11, during a trip to Yellowstone, they met up with fellow Georgia Mountaineers, Scott and April Phillips and had lunch in West Yellowstone at a great BBQ restaurant. On their last three trips out west, they have met up with Georgia Mountaineers that have been out that way at the same time.

On June 22, a move was made to Rocky Mountain RV Park in Gardiner, MT for four weeks where they still enjoying visiting Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Jackson Hole, and driving the Beartooth Highway. In addition to all the wildlife watching, Jerry was able to get in some Fly Fishing in Yellowstone. On July 4, the McKellars attended the Livingston Rodeo in Livingston, MT and had a great time. Their son, Jeremy came down from Havre to spend the holiday weekend with them. On July 22, the McKellars traveled to Havre to spend time with their son. They visited the Lewis and Clark Museum in Great Falls, MT and also did some fishing and boat riding.

In August they left Havre to visit Alberta, Canada for three weeks. They visited Waterton Lakes National Park, Banff National Park, Jasper National Park, Lake Louise, Columbia Ice Fields Glacier, and Tyrell Dinosaur Museum. The McKellars entered Canada through Sweetgrass entrance above Shelby, MT and came back through Wild Horse entrance to United States above Havre. The campgrounds they stayed in were in Lethbridge, Cochrane outside of Calgary, Edmonton, and Drumheller. Day trips were made to many different places with one being High River, Alberta where the TV Show Heartland that plays on NetFlix is filmed. British Columbia was also visited during the day trips.

In September the McKellars moved to Charles M Russell National Wildlife Refuge campground on the Missouri River where they watched the elk, and heard them bugle. On 23 September they left on their journey home. On the way, they visited the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter. The McKellars stopped in Acworth, GA to visit their oldest son,



Christopher and his family while getting coach maintenance at Integrity RV and maintenance on the car. From there, they took the coach to its parking spot in south Georgia and visited family again before finally arriving at home on 24 October. The McKellars stated the trip was great and they thoroughly enjoyed it with no problems encountered.

Items of Interest:

Camping World: “The Profit” takes a major loss: **Camping World’s Marcus Lemonis** has sold the former RV World site on **Jacksonville, Florida’s** Beach Boulevard to Travel Camp RV of Jacksonville, at an apparent net loss of nearly \$3 million. Camping World Holdings bought the site in January 2018 for \$5.4 million, and operated it as a RV World-branded site until shutting down last February. Late in October 2019, Travel Camp RV bought the site for \$2.65 million, according to county records. Camping World has indicated it will shut down 37 of its locations. Additionally, the Gander Outdoor store in Greenfield, Indiana, is also closing. Camping World opened the store in a bankruptcy buyout less than two years ago.

Driving Tip Submitted by Paul Holko: Here is a driving tip, a situation I experienced last year coming back from one of our rallies. When driving on our interstate highways, always drive in the right outside lane or left outside lane, avoid the middle lane(s) if possible. Why? If you have to stop quickly to avoid an accident, you have an “out”.

While driving in the left lane, I came over a rise in the interstate, in the rain, driving a little too fast for conditions, slightly distracted and traffic was completely stopped. I slammed on the brakes too late to stop from hitting the car in front of me. Thank God and the ABS brake system, I was able to steer our motor home into the left shoulder of the road, clear of hitting the car. After we stopped, the front our motor home was even with the stopped car driver’s door. I carry a dash mounted camera, recorded the whole scene, including a pickup truck in the right lane next to me who didn’t stop in time.

Ted Barrett
Newsletter Editor

Rally Reminders:

December: 11th at 11:30AM Wednesday **Blue Willow Inn Restaurant. 770-464-2131.** 294 North Cherokee Road, Social Circle GA. <https://bluewillowinn.com>

February: 5th thru 8th **FMCA SEA Rally, Lakeland FL. At the SUN ’N FUN Expo Campus.**

March: 18th thru 21st **Scenic Mountain RV Park Campground.** Milledgeville GA.
Address: 2686 Irwinton Road, Milledgeville GA. See <https://www.scenicmountainrv.com>

April: 15th thru 18th **Riverbend Campground.** Hiawassee GA. Reser Req: 706-896-1415.
Address: 2626 Streak Hill Road, Hiawassee GA. See <http://www.riverbendcamping.com>

May: 20th thru 23rd **Sugar Mill RV Park.** Ochlocknee GA. Reser Req: 229-227-1451.
Address: 4857 McMillan Road, Ochlocknee, GA. See <http://www.sugarmillrvpark.com>