



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

**August 19 - 23, 2020
Willow Valley RV Resort
Rabun Gap, GA**

**Hosts: Frank & Deneal Emerson
Raymond & Donna Birt**



Willow Valley RV Resort is located just south of the historic community of Rabun Gap off Yorkhouse Road. It is a new RV park that opened early in 2019, and is already expanding. Phase 2 has about 20 new additional campsites almost completed. It is in a very nice relaxed setting on the valley floor with mountains on each side. Rabun Gap takes its name from the Blue Ridge Mountain pass in which it is situated. It is a farming community due to the flat topography in the river valley of the natural gap.

Members Camping: Ken & Margie Alexander, Paul & Leann Appel, Ted & Martha Barrett, Raymond & Donna Birt, Dorris & Ethel Carpenter, Bill & Linda Davis, Ed & Patricia Durrence, Fred & Marianna Glantzberg, Jim & Janice Hamby, Virginia Jackson, Nick & Darlene Knowlton, Jim & Karen Mathis and granddaughter Shannon, Jerry & Irene McKellar, Wayne & Anne Mickey, Roy & Kathy Perry, Sam & Dottie Reese, Terry & Wanda Stephens, and Jack White. We regret that the Sassers, Smiths, and Stivers had to cancel.

Visitors: First Time Visitor was Sandy Deems from Mineral Bluff. She has been trying to attend a rally for sometime this year and it did not work out until this one. Second Time Visitors were John Sakers & Fran Hogan from Acworth, and Tom & Marilyn Phipps from Spanish Fort AL.



Early Arrivals: The Barretts arrived on Sunday found the McKellars and Knowltons already there. The McKellars arrived on Friday the 14th. Monday was a beautiful day and saw the arrival of Sandy Deems, Birts, Carpenters, Emersons, Glantzbergs, Jackson, Mathises, Reeses, and White. With 12 coaches on site, that was enough for a pre-rally get together for dinner, so a group of 18 went to the Cupboard Café in Dillard. They ordered a variety of entrees, but the desserts looked the best. Later back at the RV park, many gathered at the Fire Pit for catching up on old times, some tall tales, and just good friendship. Even with an August fire, the north Georgia weather was cool enough to bring out the jackets and in one case a blanket.



Tuesday: It was another beautiful day in the Smokys. Today's arrivals included the Appels, Durrences, Mickeys, Perrys, and Stevens. Most everyone split up for lunch and dinner, but I think the Mexican restaurants in the area had a higher than normal amount of customers



for both meals. In the evening there were games in the clubhouse and another gathering around the fire pit. Your editor had another video conference in the afternoon, this time with his Surgical Oncologist in Atlanta. The results were more enforcement of the good news from last week.



Wednesday: The day began as another beautiful day, but turned to cloudy, with threatening rain. However, the rain held off, other than for a few sprinkles. Most of the remaining attendees arrived in time for the Meet & Greet at 2:30PM. Raymond welcomed everyone and introduced the visitors and Deneal went over the Rally Agenda. But most of the time was spent with friends catching up with each other. Due to the virus, this is just our third rally this year and many of the members had not seen each other since last year. For dinner it was pizza in the clubhouse. And our last arrivals made it just in time to not miss out. After dinner it was games in the clubhouse and another gathering at the campfire.



Thursday: The day began slightly overcast. This was an open day except for dinner, so most folks were off sightseeing or visiting various Points of Interest. These included the Moonrise Distillery, Black Rock Mountain State Park, Tallulah Gorge State Park, the Foxfire Museum, the Blue Ridge Honey Company, and many more. For dinner it was off to the



Cupboard Café for the whole crowd, and they were able to seat everyone in the back room. While many enjoyed various items from the menu, others enjoyed the Thursday All You Can Eat Shrimp special. And, although it was all you could eat, still some found room for an Ice Cream Sunday. Back at the RV park, there were two tables of Fast Track in the clubhouse and a large group around the campfire. It had threatened rain a good bit of the day and it finally began around 8:45PM, making it a short evening for those enjoying the campfire. The rain continued off and on through the night and did not end until around 6:00AM the next morning.



Friday: The hard rain finally quit around daylight and it was overcast, cool and sprinkling the first part of the morning. But, about 10:30, it began to rain again. The day was a complete open day for meals, and it appeared most folks were in their coach until around 11:00AM. That is when many of the women gathered in the clubhouse for Donna's Arts and Crafts event. Also, the rain (or wind) destroyed Ken & Margie's awning during the night. With some manual labor, Pudden (the campground Mayor) and others were able to get the awning rolled back up onto the motorhome so travel would be possible. Lunch and dinner were random. But one couple slipped off to Franklin and enjoyed Fried Mushrooms at Fat Buddies and another went to the Dillard House. In the evening it was more Fast Track games in the clubhouse, but due to the light rain, there was no campfire.



Saturday: It was an open day for lunch, but for dinner the Rally Hosts prepared a meal of BBQ and baked beans in the clubhouse at 5:00PM. Included were cold slaw, potato chips, bread, and some scrumptious dessert. After the feast, it was more games of Fast Track in the clubhouse and a large gathering around the campfire. This time other campers joined in and roasted some marshmallows.



Sunday: The morning coffee got off to an early start and there was a large assortment of pastries to go along with it. Raymond announced that our Second Time Visitors, Tom & Marilyn and John & Fran had joined the Georgia Mountaineers and they were welcomed with a big round of applause. After coffee, the devotional was given by Wayne Mickey. That marked the close of another good rally. It was time for goodbyes again and soon everyone was departing for their coach and the trip home. All the attendees enjoyed being at Willow Valley and we will be back next year.

Election of Officers: This is mainly targeted for our newer members, but applies to everyone. Our By-Laws require our chapter to elect a Nominating Committee in June of each year. The mission of the committee is find candidates willing to run for the various offices in our annual election in October. Once they find at least one candidate for each office, they usually do not look for anymore, although they have the option to do so. The candidates are announced at our August Rally and nominated at the election in October. The fact that the Nominating Committee has found candidates and will nominate them, does not mean the election process is over. The chapter has an open election. Regardless of whether selected by the committee or not, anyone can announce their candidacy for office and be nominated at the election in October. If you are interested in serving as a chapter officer, you can notify the Nominating Committee, or you can get someone to nominate you at the October Business Meeting. Our chapter does not run by itself. It takes and requires someone to serve in each of our officer positions to get the job done. Thank you to those that have already agreed to serve next year.

Announcements: The Nominating Committee has completed their job of finding candidates to fill the officer positions for next year. For the elected positions, these candidates will be nominated at the October Business Meeting. Remember, this is an open election and anyone wanting to compete can also be nominated from the floor. The candidates are as follows:

Ted Barrett	President
Wayne Mickey	First Vice President
Nick Knowlton	Second Vice President/Wagon Master
Julie Simpson	Secretary
Bill Lyles	Treasurer
Leann Appel	Newsletter Editor
Raymond Birt	National Director
Greg Zaic	Alternate National Director
Deneal Emerson	Sunshine Reporter
Kathy Perry	Sheriff
Ethel Carpenter	Devotional Leader
Ted Barrett	WebMaster

In Closing: We want to again THANK Willow Valley RV Resort for their great customer service, friendly attitude, and making us feel very welcome at their RV park. It is on the 2021 Rally Schedule and hopefully will be on many more in the future. A heartfelt gratitude to the owners and work campers – you do make a difference.



One More Note: With all violations of law and order; the rioting, burning, and destruction going on in our largest cities today; and all the sports team taking a knee in disrespect for our flag and our country, it reminded me of those who have fallen to protect our freedoms and the freedoms of others. So, with respect for those, please watch the Angel Flight at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIsnD87uOeo>.

Ted Barrett
Newsletter Editor

RALLY REMINDERS:

September: 16th thru 19th Great Outdoors RV Resort. Franklin NC. 828-349-0412.
Address: 321 Thumpers Trail, Franklin, NC. See <http://www.gorvresort.com>

Hosts: Browns & Reeses

October: 21st thru 24th Palmetto Cove RV Park. Cleveland SC. For reservations, contact Jack White. See <http://www.palmettocove.com> **Hosts: Mickeys & Perrys**

November: 18th thru 21st Coastal Georgia RV Resort. Brunswick GA. 912-264-3869.
Address: 287 South Port Parkway, Brunswick, GA. See <http://www.coastalgarvresort.com>

Hosts: Cannons, Jackson, & White