

THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

**May 20 – 24, 2020
Cancelled Rally at
Sugar Mill RV Park -- Ochlocknee GA
Scheduled Hosts: Barretts and McKellars**



Another month and another cancelled rally, again to comply with the Executive Order from Governor Kemp. This is three cancelled rallies so far, but hopefully will be the last. The Sugar Mill RV Park is located in South Georgia just off US-19, and Thomasville is the nearest town of any size. It is nestled among tall pines and dogwoods with azalea bushes serving as borders between the sites. It is a lovely setting in the spring when the azaleas and dogwoods are blooming. As with the first two newsletters of this year, I am listing the planned attendees below.

Planned Attendees -- Members: Paul & Leann Appel, Ted and Martha Barrett, Hubert and Marsha Brown, Eldridge & Bobbie Cannon, Dorris and Ethel Carpenter, David & Nancy Jones, Nick & Darlene Knowlton, Bill Lyles, Jim and Karen Mathis, Jerry and Irene McKellar, Wayne & Anne Mickey, Sam & Dottie Reese, Terry & Wanda Stephens, and Jack White.

Planned Attendees -- Visitors: Dudley & Teresa Smith from Loganville GA, Larry and Mary Stivers from Cumming GA, Roger & Dayle Holleger from Whigham GA, and Tom & Marilyn Phipps from Spanish Fort AL.

On 30 April, word came down from the Governor's new Executive Order and it required us elderly Georgians to continue to shelter in place until June 12. And with that, Raymond put out the official word that the rally was cancelled. Even before the cancellation, some planned attendees had already changed their mind and were planning on staying home to hunker down against catching the Coronavirus. However, similar to our cancelled rally back in March, there were a number of camp hardy folks who decided to not cancel their reservations and have a camp-out instead. This hardy group consisted of the Carpenters, Knowltons, and the Mathises, along with their granddaughter Shannon, plus Visitors, the

Smiths and Phipps. And, if it had not been for me have medical appointments that Thursday and Friday, I think Martha and I would have been right there with them.

Unofficial Campout: Everyone had arrived by Wednesday and they found only a few restaurants were open for dine-in service. Those included the Longhorn Steak House, Beef 'O' Bradys, and a local pizza place. On Wednesday most of the group ate at Longhorns, while the Carpenters went to Moultrie to shop at Sid's and eat at the Blue Sky Grill. Must have been good, as the next day most of them went back to shop at Sid's, and eat at the Blue Sky Grill. During the week, the group explored downtown Thomasville and of course "The Big Oak." Several also explored some of the surrounding towns. And many enjoyed shopping at The Bread Wagon for goodies from cakes to pecan pies.



While shopping at Sid's in Moultrie, one of the items they looked for was salt cellars. Well, I have to show my ignorance here, as I had never heard of a salt cellar and did not know what one was. So I did a little search on the internet and have attached a couple of pictures. Well, I get the picture and I think I will purchase one for myself. As much grilling and meat smoking as I do, one would come in very handy versus using a salt shaker.



Cowboy Code: Since most of us have not used our RV for the past few weeks or months, I thought it would be OK to include a non-RV article. But to put it into perspective, you will have to indulge a little of my personal history. When I was born in July 1944, my daddy was a sharecropper. He was born in 1902, and grew up during the Great Depression and from there into the era of restrictions and rationing of World War II. I am sure most of you know that sharecroppers were kept in debt to the landowner. That way they are obligated to stay on the farm and not move away to another farm. Well, somehow my Daddy broke that bondage and was able to buy his own farm in December of 1944. Compared to previous years, he did quite well and around 1947, began taking his family to town on Saturday afternoons. There he would go to the Zebulon Theater in Cairo to watch the Saturday matinee, which was a western movie in those years. I was only three years old at the time, but he took me along with him. This continued almost every Saturday until around 1951, when the Zebulon quit showing westerns on Saturday.

So I grew up on a Saturday afternoon diet of Johnny Mack Brown, Lash LaRue, Hopalong Cassidy, and the singing cowboys of Eddie Dean, Rex Allen, Tex Ritter, Gene Autry, and Roy Rogers. I am sure there were even more, but I can't recall them right now. In thinking back, Rex Allen and Gene Autry were my favorites. In the 1940s and '50s, Gene was one of the most popular Western TV actors along with Roy Rogers and William Boyd (Hopalong Cassidy). He later became a successful businessman and the owner of the California Angels baseball team. Gene died in 1998. I later learned that Gene Autry had published something which he called the "Cowboy Code." It provides an insight into the popular culture of the day when many Baby Boomers, were growing up — when young boys envisioned themselves cowboys like Gene — the "good guys." I can't imagine something as "corny" as this becoming popular today; but, it should! Now, here, to brighten your day in these difficult times, is Gene Autry's Cowboy Code:

- The Cowboy must never shoot first, hit a smaller man, or take unfair advantage.
- He must never go back on his word, or a trust confided in him.
- He must always tell the truth.
- He must be gentle with children, the elderly and animals.
- He must not advocate or possess racially or religiously intolerant ideas.
- He must help people in distress.
- He must be a good worker.
- He must keep himself clean in thought, speech, action, and personal habits.
- He must respect women, parents, and his nation's laws.
- The Cowboy is a patriot.

I will never forget my growing up and having heroes as good and important as those cowboy TV stars. It was a simpler time, for sure — an era now remembered with great fondness by all little cowboys of yesteryear.

Hear Gene Autry sing "*Back in the Saddle Again*" -- just click on the link.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5F-O_19ISl

Visitors: As Georgia Mountaineers, I think I can speak for many of our members about the lack of connection we feel while not being able to have a rally. It seems like forever since seeing those at our Christmas Luncheon last December. One rally gets cancelled and we plan for another. Then it gets cancelled and is repeated once more. But as members, we sorta know what to expect and can roll with the punches. However, what about our Visitors? How have they handled this? First of all, you know there has to be a lot of anxiety in meeting a group of strange people. Then the rally is cancelled. For some, it was a one time shot to rally with us while in the area, or traveling from point A to point B. For others, they rescheduled to attend the next rally and so on, only for the next two rallies to get cancelled. As a result, we currently have eight couples with intentions of attending our June Rally in Cleveland. I think it takes a lot of perseverance to sign up repeatedly to meet a group of strange folks, when not really knowing what to expect. **With that in mind, I dedicate this newsletter to out Visitors.** Below is a list of planned Visitors, beginning with our March Rally at Milledgeville.

Milledgeville:

Doug & Ginger Henry	F477430	Grayson GA
Bill & Nancy Hughes	F485242	Dawsonville GA
John Sakers & Fran Hogan	F460234	Acworth GA
Dudley & Teresa Smith	F504434	Loganville GA

Hiawassee:

Sandy Deems	F502191	Mineral Bluff GA
Doug & Ginger Henry	F477430	Grayson GA
Dudley & Teresa Smith	F504434	Loganville GA
Hartzel & Lorelea Black	F488777	Metropolis IL Visiting family in Pooler GA
David & Stephanie Osborn	F493802	Wakefield RI On their way to Florida
Bill Farrell & Gail Easley	F448894	Crystal River FL Camping in the area

Ochlocknee:

Tom & Marilyn Phipps	F351656	Spanish Fort AL
Roger & Dayle Holleger	F502330	Whigham GA
Larry & Mary Stivers	F507510	Cumming GA
Dudley & Teresa Smith	F504434	Loganville GA

Cleveland:

Lou Finkle & Diane Thompson	F336134	Biloxi MS Camping in the area
John Sakers & Fran Hogan	F460234	Acworth GA
Julie Simpson	F506417	Simpsonville
Doug & Ginger Henry	F477430	Grayson GA
Larry & Mary Stivers	F507510	Cumming GA
Bill & Nancy Hughes	F485242	Dawsonville GA
Dudley & Teresa Smith	F504434	Loganville GA
Tom & Marilyn Phipps	F351656	Spanish Fort AL

As you can see, some of the names are repeats and some are signed up for our Cleveland Rally next month. Also, some attended the unofficial camp-outs. For those that were just planning on a one time visit because you were going to be in the area or just traveling through, hopefully our paths can cross in the future. And for those of you looking for a local chapter to possibly join, I salute your perseverance and courage. You are to be commended. And, we do hope you will be able to attend our rallies in the future. Speaking of the unofficial camp-outs, there has been discussion about counting those camp-outs as having attended a rally (or two) and therefore having eligibility to join our chapter at the next rally. That will not be the case. In keeping in the spirit of compliance with the Governor's Executive Order regarding the Coronavirus, our Chapter is also going to enforce our Standing Rules – Article III, paragraph 1.A. - ***The two visit rule for prospective new members is for them to evaluate the Chapter and determine if they want to join.*** Unofficial camp-outs will not count. With that said, all Visitors at our Cleveland Rally in June will have the status of First Time Visitor. Hope to see you there; and if not in June, some other rally this year.

Editor's Note: I thank Ethel Carpenter for the input on the camp-out at Sugar Mill RV Park.

Ted Barrett
Newsletter Editor

Rally Reminders:

June: 17th thru 20th **Leisure Acres Campground.** Cleveland GA. 706-865-6466.
Address: 3840 Westmoreland Road, Cleveland, GA. See <http://www.leisureacrescampground.com> **Hosts: Carpenters & Durrences**

July: 22nd thru 25th **Spring Lake RV Resort.** Crossville TN. 877-707-1414.
Address: 255 Fairview Drive, Crossville, TN See <http://www.springlakervtn.com>
Hosts: Newtons

August: 19th thru 22nd **Willow Valley RV Resort.** Rabun Gap GA. 706-746-0078.
Address: 323 Yorkhouse Road, Rabun Gap, GA. See <https://willowvalleyrv.com>
Hosts: Emersons & Birts

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