

THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

April 14 - 18, 2021
Riverbend Campground
Hiawassee, Georgia
Hosts: Lyles, Jackson, & White

Riverbend Campground is located just south of Hiawassee, a little off of GA-75. Many of its campsites back up to the shaded banks of the peaceful Hiawassee River with its beautiful clear water, small rippling rapids, and rocky bottom. This year we stayed in the newly developed part of the campground which is real nice. As for campgrounds and RV parks, this is a great place to have a rally, or just to go camping.



Members Camping: Ken & Margie Alexander, Paul & Leann Appel, Ted & Martha Barrett, Raymond & Donna Birt, Dorris & Ethel Carpenter, Ed & Patricia Durrence, Fred & Marianna Glantzbert, Jim & Janis Hamby, Nick & Darlene Knowlton, Virginia Jackson, Wayne & Anne Mickey, Roy & Kathy Perry, Scott & April Phillips, Tom & Marilyn Phipps, Julie Simpson, Terry & Wanda Stephens, Jack White, Frank & Cathy Williams, and Doug & Sherry Wright.

Visitors Camping: This is the largest group of Visitors we have ever had in the history of our chapter and all of them were First Time. They included Len Ebright & Carole Yates from Gainesville, Ernie & Chris Russell from Ellijay, Greg & Pawnee O'Neal from Panama City FL, Jim & Janine Williams from Marietta, Chuck & Adele Rasbach from Dallas, Bob & Mary Alice Heinz from Simpsonville SC, John & Tina Hopper from Waleska, Larry & Penny Ebest from Clermont, Chris & Susan Edmonson from Power Springs, and Larry & Connie Rosenberry from Blairsville. We greatly enjoyed meeting our Visitors this month and hope they all had a good time. Some of them have already made reservations for future rallies and will surely join our Chapter. It is new members like these who will keep our Chapter alive down the road. A group photo is on the next page, but it is missing three couples.



Monday: Already there were the, Glantzbergs, Knowltons, Phillips, and the O,Neals who arrived on Sunday. Arriving today were the Birts, Carpenters, Durrences, Ebright & Yates, Jackson, and White. The Barretts Bob-Tailed in while their coach was in the shop for repairs. It was a beautiful day for travel. Everyone got set-up and it was off to various places for dinner.

Tuesday: It was another good day for travel and today's arrivals were the Appels, Mickeys, Phipps, Stephens, and Wrights. The weather was very nice and almost everyone was out greeting the others as they arrived. It was a pre rally day and small groups went their separate ways for both lunch and dinner.

Wednesday: Most of the arrivals today were Visitors, along with the Alexanders, Hambys, Perrys, Simpson, and Frank & Cathy Williams. The Visitors included the Russells, Jim & Janine Williams, Rasbachs, Heinzes, Hoppers, Ebests, Edmonsons, and Rosenberrys. The Meet & Greet at 3:00PM in the pavilion kicked off the first rally of 2021. Ted Barrett, President, made opening remarks including welcoming the 10 visiting couples. Ted then asked that each visiting couple to tell us a little about themselves to include their backgrounds and various interests. The introductions took a little while, but it was worth while as we learned something about our visitors and they did too. After that Jack went over the Rally Agenda, making sure everyone knew of the recent changes. The rally fees were collected and a sign up sheet was passed around for participating in the various events on the Rally Agenda.

Following was the fish dinner, which was a success, with the campground owners supplying the fish and hush puppies and the hosts providing coleslaw, baked beans, and dessert. Comments included "those were the best hush puppies ever." Attendees



brought their own beverages. After dinner it began to rain, so that meant no campfire that night. So some chose to play board games, in the pavilion, while others visited in smaller groups or returned to their motorhomes.

Thursday: Today the Barretts arrived in their coach after getting it out of the shop. Lunch was on your own and most went in different directions, some sightseeing, others staying in the campground as it was a cool and windy day. But that did not prevent sight seeing and many went up Bell Mountain. Bell Mountain provides a great view of Chatuge Lake and the



surrounding area. Dinner was at El Cancun and our group filled up the assigned room. The food was good. Unfortunately it appeared to be understaffed as the wait time seemed a little long and some of the orders had trouble getting to their destination. On the bright side, it allowed us more visit time with each other and we became more acquainted with our visitors. The campfire was held behind Jack's coach. Since it was much cooler as the sun set, the warm campfire felt good. Those not attending the campfire played games in the pavilion or returned to their coaches after dinner.

Friday: The main item on the agenda for today was a two hour boat ride of Chatuge Lake. The weather was good and everyone enjoyed the afternoon ride. Chatuge Lake is not that big, but because of all the coves and fingers, has over 132 miles of shoreline. The second picture is the house belonging to Delta's Vice President and the last one is called Million Dollar Hill because of all the homes on it worth over a million each. The dam is located in North Carolina but most of the lake is in Georgia. The dam was finished in 1942, built of earth and rock, and is 2950 feet long. The lake was construction by the TVA for flood control and some power.

Others places explored were the Stonehaus Winery and Alexanders. But not everyone went sightseeing,





as they just enjoyed visiting within the campground, and/or kicked backed and relaxed in this restful area.

Dinner was at Hawg Wild BBQ. This is a very good BBQ and catfish restaurant and many ordered catfish. But there were also many dishes of pulled pork and ribs. That evening found many gathered around the campfire catching up on the news and others playing games at the pavilion. It was a large group around the campfire.



Saturday: Today was an open agenda and it was sightseeing again for many. Some spent part of the morning walking down by the river and looking as the houses built across from the campground property on the other side of the river. The Hiawassee River is a very beautiful clear water river.



Dinner was at Brother's Willow Ranch near Young Harris. They have a large room upstairs where a group can dine alone from the others. After everyone was seated, that room was



almost filled with around 45 people. Normally, with a group that size, they have to order from their short menu with about three options. This time the regular menu was used and the food was still served timely for a group that size. The food was very good and this is a great place for a large group to eat.



Sunday: Sunday morning we gathered in the pavilion for sausage or ham biscuits and some excellent coffee, followed by a short devotion given by Wayne Mickey. All too soon it was time to say good bye until the next time. A Great Big **THANK YOU** goes to our Co-Hosts, Bill Lyles, Virginia Jackson, and Jack White. We also thank Riverbend Campground for the fried fish and hushpuppies, they were delicious.



ANNOUNCEMENTS: Rally Hosts are still needed for July, August, and September. And the Phipps would probably appreciate some co-hosts for next month's rally at Gadsden. If no one steps forward to host these rallies, a list will probably be published later of who has not hosted a rally in a while. Remember, it does not take that much work to host a rally. Just schedule a restaurant or two, take care of the clubhouse, and greet our Visitors. And that's about it. Other than that, you can do as little or as much as you want to.

Reservations: Due to the massive increase of RV sales over the past years, vacancies at RV parks are becoming harder to find. Riverbend at Hiawassee had no vacancies last week

while we were there. Currently I think Noccalula Falls has vacancies for smaller RVs only for next month's rally. Word is that Leisure Acres no longer has any vacancies during our June Rally. And Lake Springs at Crossville was sold out last year when we were there. So, if you want to attend our rallies, you need to make reservations soonest. And this includes our August, September, October, and November Rallies. It is realized that the number of Visitors has had an impact on our previously reserved campsites, but that is something that cannot be determined from rally to rally, unless we limit their numbers. But that would really hurt the recruiting effort, which is the lifeblood for the survival of our Chapter.

Martha Barrett
Newsletter Editor

RALLY REMINDERS:

May: 19th thru 22nd **Noccalula Falls Campground.** Gadsden AL. 256-543-7412, 1600 Noccalula Rd, Gadsden, AL. See <https://www.noccalulafallspark.com>

Hosts: Phipps

June: 16th thru 19th **Leisure Acres Campground.** Cleveland GA. Reserv Required by 15 May. 706-865-6466, 3840 Westmoreland Road, Cleveland, GA. See <http://www.leisureacrescampground.com>

Hosts: Miriam Armstrong, Barretts, & Glantzbergs

July: 28th thru 31st **Spring Lake RV Resort.** Crossville TN. Reserv Required by 15 May. 877-707-1414, 255 Fairview Drive, Crossville, TN. See <http://www.springlakervtn.com>

Hosts: