

THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

August 18 - 22, 2021
Willow Valley RV Resort
Rabun Gap, GA

Hosts: Raymond & Donna Birt
Doug & Sherry Wright



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 then completed an expansion of about 20 more campsites. 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: Paul & Leann Appel, Ted & Martha Barrett, Raymond & Donna Birt, Dorris & Ethel Carpenter, Ed & Patricia Durrence, Larry & Penny Ebest, Jim & Janice Hamby, Dennis & Joyce Horcher, Virginia Jackson, Nick & Darlene Knowlton, Jim & Joanne Mason, Wayne & Anne Mickey, Roy & Kathy Perry, Scott & April Phillips, Larry & Connie Rosenberry, Terry & Wanda Stephens, Jack White, and Faylene Wright. We regret the cancellations, mostly for health reasons, and wish everyone a quick and full recovery.

Visitors: First Time Visitors were Harley & Nina Morgan from Evans. Ken & Cheryl Colestock from Lincolnton cancelled due to the bad weather. Second Time Visitors were Mike & Pat Freeman from Gainesville, who attended our June Rally at Leisure Acres Campground in Cleveland; and Johnny & Linda Dunaway from Hawkinsville, who attended last month's rally at Crossville. Mike and Pat joined our chapter – **welcome** to the Georgia Mountaineers.

Early Arrivals: The Phillips, who have property in the area came in real early and arrived Friday 13 August. The Birts and Carpenters wanted to beat the thunder showers and came in on Sunday. The Barretts, Durrences, Jackson, and White arrived on Monday. The Barretts were enjoying a nice sunny day drive until they hit the mountain range 15 miles west of Clayton, where they ran into fog and mist, and then thunder showers all the way to Clayton. Still, today's arrivals beat the rain that would dominate the night and Tuesday. Most everyone was on their own for dinner and went various places, but one couple slipped off to Fat Buddys in Franklin for Fried Mushrooms. There was no campfire and most folks just stayed in their coach for the night. After midnight the rain from Hurricane Fred set in.



Tuesday: The theme today was rain and more rain! It began after midnight Monday and continued all day. In all our years of camping, do not recall ever experiencing so much heavy rainfall and lasting as long as it did. Some of the coaches parked nearest the river had to be relocated to the other side of the RV park. Arrivals today were Doug & Sherry Wright, Wayne & Mickey, Roy & Kathy Perry, and Faylene Wright. Needless to say, most of us just stayed in listening to the rain and relaxing. By evening Ted and I were more than ready to get out and about. Jack and Virginia joined us for an evening meal of Fajitas for Two at Le Cabana's. Others also had the same idea, for in the late afternoon, the rain had let up a little and some ventured out for dinner at different places. No campfire again due to the rain.

Wednesday: Today was the official start of the August rally. At 2:30 the Meet & Greet made it official with almost everyone gathering in the clubhouse. Not everyone had arrived yet, as the weather really messed up their traveling schedule. Later it was Pizza time in clubhouse for dinner. Little Ceasers normally makes very good pizza and today was no exception. After dinner there were games in the clubhouse and since it was not raining, a large campfire. However, a little before 9:00PM, heavy raindrops began to fall and everyone left the campfire for their coach.



Thursday: Black Rock Mountain State Park was the destination of choice for some today. It is Georgia State Parks highest elevation at 3,640 feet. The overlooks there provide spectacular 80-mile vistas. We gathered at the Cupboard Café for our early evening meal,



3:30PM, and as usual we filled up the room. It was all you an eat shrimp day, and there were at least three folks who



put a hurtin' on those shrimp. I won't name names, but it's the same ones who love those large banana splits at the Cumberland General Store. In spite of the economy, we received good service and the food was as tasty as always. As usual games were played in clubhouse this evening, as well as the gathering around the fire pit. Granted there were some puddles of water to be avoided due to a heavy shower earlier in the day. The campfire fans are a determined lot/group, so it takes more than a few puddles of water to cancel the evening campfire.

Friday: It has become a tradition that come Friday mornings you will find the ladies gathered in the clubhouse all fired



up for another craft project led by Donna Birt. She never fails to come up with a great project. This month the project was hats. Straw hats were provided to each participant along with glue guns and a large assortment of artificial flowers. From there it is up to the ladies to unleash their creativity. The ladies enjoyed the project and tackled it with the enthusiasm. Once again Donna came up with a fun and enjoyable project. Thank you Donna! At 2:00PM our hosts provided an Ice Cream social at the Clubhouse. There were three very large containers of ice cream and by the end of the social, it was all gone. The evening meal was dinner on your own. But a group of nine went to the Valley Café, where their special of the day was a 14 ounce Prime Rib. Others went to Fat Buddies for those tasty Fried Mushrooms. Their large basket is a meal unto itself. Nothing else is need except your drink. Back at the campground, it was more games in the clubhouse and a larger group at the campfire.

Saturday: The agenda today was open until we gathered at the clubhouse for a Fried Chicken dinner with potluck dishes on the side.. The Fried Chicken was purchased from Ingles and very good. And with all the side dishes, it was a feast. Needless to say, no one went away hungry. In the evening the RV park had a country/western band playing at the gazebo just across from the fire pit. Plus the park sponsored campfire Smores for the children. So, we had a bunch of new guests at the campfire with us. The kids were from toddlers on up and really enjoyed the Smores. For some it was a first time experience. In addition, a pickup truck drove up and



served us water melon from his tailgate. It was delicious and gave a whole new meaning to the term tailgating. Those members playing games in the clubhouse just don't know what they missed.

Sunday: We gathered for a light breakfast of coffee, juice, and croissants from Burger King. This was followed by a short devotional given by Wayne Mickey. It was then time to say our good-byes until next time.

Editors Note: As with our previous rallies this year, this month was no different regarding the shortage of employees at the restaurants. Wendy's was closed 24/7 due to insufficient help. The Cottage House closed at 4:00PM each day. Other restaurants were closed for a couple or more days during the week. And some listed special menus



just for Take-Out. Plus, almost all the business had **Now Hiring** and **Help Wanted** signs in their windows. It appears our federal government is teaching more and more people, that they can just stay home and let the government take care of them.

President's Message: 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 November. 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 our election in November. 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 November. 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 November 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.



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 November Business Meeting. Remember, this is an open election and anyone wanting to compete can also be nominated from the floor. Thank you to those that have already agreed to serve next year. The candidates are as follows:

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|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Ted Barrett | President |
| Wayne Mickey | First Vice President |
| Fred Glantzberg | Second Vice President/Wagon Master |
| Julie Simpson | Secretary |
| Bill Lyles | Treasurer |
| | Newsletter Editor |
| Betty Duncan | National Director |
| Raymond Birt | Alternate National Director |
| Anne Mickey | 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 2022 Rally Schedule and we had eleven members make reservations for next year while there. A heartfelt gratitude to the owners and work campers – you do make a difference.

Martha Barrett
Newsletter Editor

RALLY REMINDERS:

September: 15th thru 18th **Murphy/Peace Valley KOA.** Marble NC. [800-562-9382](tel:800-562-9382). 117 Happy Valley Road, Marble NC. See <https://koa.com/campgrounds/murphy>
Hosts: Williams, Frank & Cathy, Jackson, White, and Barretts

October: 20th thru 23rd **Palmetto Cove RV Park.** Cleveland SC. Don't call the RV Park, email our Wagon Master or President. 521 Table Rock Road, Cleveland, SC.
See <http://www.palmettocove.com> **Hosts: Mickeys & Perrys**

November: 17th thru 20th **Coastal Georgia RV Resort.** Brunswick GA. 912-264-3869, 287 South Port Parkway, Brunswick, GA. See <http://www.coastalgarvresort.com>
Hosts: Reeses & Lyle

December: Christmas Luncheon -- 8 Dec 2021, at the Smith House in Dahlonega. Make your plans now.

Hosts: Zaics & Birts

