

Odds and Ends

23 June 2021

The Georgia Mountaineers Chapter has picked up so many new members over the past few years. As a result, I thought it was time to publish an “old habits” or “refresher” of established past practices, along with some other information.

1. The Night Blind inside your windshield: Ever since Martha and I have been a member, it has always been a practice that when you got up in the morning, got dressed, had breakfast, or whatever; when you were ready to accept a knock on your door, you removed or raised the night blind on your windshield. That was a signal that you were up and ready to be sociable. If the blind was not removed, it normally meant you were sleeping late or did not want to be disturbed. The same was true for taking naps in the afternoon. This did not apply to the day shade.

2. Sociably Late: In many parts and places of our society, it is fashionable to be sociably late. That does not work with the Georgia Mountaineers. If it is on the Rally Agenda that a caravan will be leaving at 4:30PM to go somewhere and you get there at 4:30PM, most likely the caravan will have left at 4:29PM. If it says to meet at a restaurant at 5:00PM and you get there at 5:00PM, most likely you will find that everyone else is in the restaurant, seated, and have their drinks already ordered. So, if you are a sociable late person, that is OK. Just remember, you may have to adjust accordingly; as for the rest of the Georgia Mountaineers, **you are just late.**

3. Hosting Rallies and Restaurant Reservations: If you are hosting a rally and make reservations with a restaurant for our group, you need to record the name, date, and time of who and when you made the reservation. If there is a good number of days/weeks between when the reservation was made and the beginning of the rally, when you get to the rally, follow up with the restaurant and again record name, date, and time. Then you need to follow up again the day before or day of the event. Usually the restaurant will want a finalized number in the group when you make that last phone call. If all you can do with the restaurant is leave a voice mail, and they don't call you back. Either go to the restaurant in person, or call back and cancel the event on their voice mail and select another restaurant, or leave that time/space on the agenda open. With the Attendees List and a copy of our Roster, it is easy to notify all the members attending of the change. And with the cell numbers for the Visitors on the Attendees List, it is also easy to call or text them of the change.

4. Change Your Mind or Something Happens: All of you should know that the events on the Rally Agenda are not mandatory. As a result, many of our Rally Hosts use a sign-up sheet for the various events. If you have signed up or raised your hand to attend and something happens and you cannot make it; or, you are going to be late, you need to call one of the hosts and let them know. Their cell phone numbers will be on the Rally Agenda.

5. Setting up or Breaking Camp: Most all of our members have their procedures down pat when unhooking/hooking their toad, and setting up their RV on the campsite, etc. History has proven it is best not to interfere with them and let them do their thing. If you do try to help, it most often results in some part of the process being ignored or being done incorrectly. And, this could result in damage to their toad or RV. So don't offer to help. Let them do their thing. **If someone does want or need help, don't hesitate to ASK!** And there will be help.

6. Making Reservations: The only way to ensure you can attend a rally is to make your reservations early. Granted, if you cancel, you may lose some deposit money or pay a cancellation fee. But that is generally a small price, to ensure if you really want to attend a rally, you will be able to do. See the attached document on making reservations.

7. Bob-Tailing: Remember that all of our Friends of the Chapter and current members are welcome to Bob-Tail in for any rally event, or just come by for an afternoon and/or campfire. However, if coming to enjoy a meal at the clubhouse or a restaurant, **DO NOT** show up unannounced. This does not mean to just tell your best buddy. It means notifying the Wagon Master, preferably by email. The Wagon Master can get them added to the Attendees List and notify the Rally Hosts of the increase in numbers so they can adjust accordingly.

8. Guests and Visitors: One of the best ways to increase our membership is word of mouth to friends or motorhome people you meet, and get them to a rally. However, you need to notify the Wagon Master and/or Recruiter of their name, cell number, or email address. They have to be added to the Attendees List so everyone knows they are attending. The Recruiter makes temporary name tags for our Visitors and Guests. And remember, if you invite Guests (not Visitors), you are responsible for paying their Rally Fee.