

# THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

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**July 27 -- 31, 2016  
Holiday TRAV-L-PARK  
Chattanooga TN  
Hosts: None**

We were greeted warmly by the friendly staff at TRAV-L-PARK. This is a very easy park to get to, just a mile or so off Exit-1 as you enter Tennessee from the south. It is a clean RV park with some nice shade trees. So, if you are ever in this area, it is just off I-75, Exit-1.



**Members Camping:** Ken & Margie Alexander, Van & Miriam Armstrong, Ted & Martha Barrett, Dorris & Ethel Carpenter, Don & Peggy Crump, Ed & Patricia Durrence, Mike & Kathie Newton, and Jack White.

**Hosts:** No one signed up for this rally. The Barrett's volunteered to host the Meet & Greet on Wednesday and coffee & pastries on Sunday morning. Jack White, the Armstrongs, and the Browns (who bobtailed in several times during the week) arranged for three evening meals dining out. They included Cheddars, Sticky Fingers, and the Riverside Catfish House.

**Visitors:** Joseph Like, Warner Robbins, GA, Larry & Carole Hilliard, Douglas, GA, and Joe & Flo Swanson, Murfreesboro, TN with their daughter, Carmel Tritschler and her daughter Hannah. They are from left to right below.



**Monday** the first to arrive was the Durrences, followed later by the Barretts and Carpenters. It was so hot and humid we all sought the cool air in our coaches after parking and setting up. Later we welcomed the short rain shower that helped somewhat lower the outside temperature. That evening we all rode in the Carpenters big red truck to the nearby restaurant, Wally's. There we had the good fortune to be seated in a room by ourselves. Perhaps they took one look at us and decided maybe we should be separated from the other customers? Anyway, this gave us the opportunity to have a leisurely meal by ourselves enjoying shared experiences, both good and not so good, of our travels. After returning to the campground, we all retired to our own coaches for the remainder of the evening.

**Tuesday** morning Camping World was a draw for the Durrences and Carpenters, the Barretts headed out on a shopping expedition with one member less eager than the other. Then back to the campground for rest and relaxation. The Armstrongs and Jack White arrived in the afternoon. That evening we all gathered at the Texas Roadhouse for another good meal and fellowship. Afterward, all opted to return to their coaches for a quiet evening. No games were played and there was no campfire.

**Wednesday** afternoon saw the arrival of the Alexanders, Crumps and first time visitor Joe Swanson. At 2:30 we gathered in the club house for a Meet and Greet. We were delighted that Hubert and Marsha Brown bobtailed in to join us and stayed on afterward to play Fast Track. Having no hosts for this rally Ted explained that he and I would do the coffee, pastries, etc for Sunday. He then asked for volunteers to make arrangements for evening meals at a local restaurant of their choosing. Jack White volunteered to make arrangements for us that evening at Chedders. The Armstrongs volunteered for Thursday evening at Stickey Fingers. First time visitor Joe Swanson arrived at the camp ground while we were having the Meet & Greet, so he came in said a quick hello. After parking and setting up his new coach he was off to Mufreesboro, TN to get his wife Flo and bring her back to the campground. (Background info: Joe was just returning from taking delivery of their new coach in Atlanta that morning.) Following the Meet and Greet, some stayed behind to play Fast Track. That evening at Cheddars we were separated into three nearby tables, so conversation was restricted to each table arrangement. Of course that did not limit an occasional comment across tables. Following a good meal we returned to the campground to later gather outside as nightfall approached to visit with each other. There were no games in the clubhouse this evening.

**Thursday** saw many of our walkers out taking their usual morning exercise through the park. The outside temperature was so pleasant we gathered in groups outside a few coaches and visited until heading off in different directions for the day. First





time visitors Joseph Like and Larry & Carole Hilliard arrived in the afternoon, along with Joe and Flo Swanson's daughter Carmel Tritschler and her teenage granddaughter Hannah. For the evening meal, the Armstrongs made arrangements for us at Stickey Fingers. There we enjoyed a nice meal and conversation. There were no games played in the clubhouse, but there was a nice campfire to warm up the night.



**Friday** was another nice day, moderate temperatures for this time of the year with light breezes. Again we sat around outside and visited in the mornings. Later, several car loads went to the Aquarium, some shopping at the large mall and other shops, some went to a movie, others explored Lookout Mountain and the Raccoon Mountain area. The Newtons were the most adventurous, taking along their dog for a good day of exercise and exploring at Lookout Mountain. The Hilliards took the opportunity to visit some nearby motorhome dealerships, however on Sunday they still went home in their Safari. For the evening meal some stayed in while others dined out. Can anyone guess the destination of three cars and who led the pack? Bet you guessed it, a nearby Mexican restaurant, Amigos. That evening there was one table of Fast Track players in the clubhouse. The others gathered around the campfire where they roasted marshmallows and enjoyed an evening of conversation. I am sure some of the passer-byers wondered what kind of people build a campfire on a hot summer night.

**Saturday** morning the Newtons departed for home as they had other obligations. Some went out for breakfast, others visited with each other in the campground. One gentleman (not to be named) finally got around to



cleaning out his stack of magazines. This resulted in a happy smile on his wife's face. Saturday evening almost everyone was led by the Browns on a 24 mile drive all the way across Chattanooga and out in the country on US-41 to dine at the Riverside Catfish House on the banks of the Tennessee River. Of course there were other items on the menu, but the main fare was catfish filets with French fries or baked potato, slaw, and hush puppies. Thanks to the Browns for arranging this outing. There was no campfire or games in the clubhouse that evening.



**Sunday** morning it was coffee, juice, and pastries at the clubhouse. Ted Barrett thanked Jack White, the Armstrongs, and the Browns for arranging the evening meals at the restaurants. Ethel Carpenter gave the devotional. Following the devotion, conversation continued as all seemed to enjoy being together once again -- lingering over coffee before departing. Jack and the Swansons were the only ones this time to stay over until Monday.



***Martha Barrett***  
***Newsletter Editor***

## **Rally Reminders:**

- August:** 17<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup> **Great Outdoors RV Resort.** Franklin NC. See  
<http://www.gorvresort.com> **Hosts: Mathises & Millers**
- September:** 14<sup>th</sup> thru 17<sup>th</sup> **River Vista RV Resort.** Dillard GA.  
See <http://www.rvmountainvillage.com> **Hosts: Zaics & Crumps**
- October:** 19<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup> **Spring Lake RV Resort.** Crossville TN. See  
<http://www.springlakervtn.com> **Hosts: Birts & Armstrongs**
- November:** 16<sup>th</sup> thru 19<sup>th</sup> **Coastal Georgia RV Resort.** Brunswick GA. See  
<http://www.coastalgarvresort.com> **Hosts: Carpenters & Agnews**