

June 20-23 Rally Report 2019

We had a fun gathering at Pigeon Forge, Tennessee hosted by Chuck and Sue Borchers and Donett Murphy with a good turn out of 8 coaches – Caruthers, Ericksons, Connells, Rohrs, Hammonds, Borchers, Murphy and new members Song and Charles Staggs. Most coaches were able to make reservations at the Camp Rivers Landing RV Park which was near downtown Pigeon Forge. The park provided a Barn for all our gathering which was not air conditioned but we are campers, right!!

Travel on Thursday was challenging with bad weather and summer traffic and a few members attempted short cuts which were less than acceptable; however, these “adventures” will provide fun discussions around our next campfire.

Thursday evening was enjoyable meeting new members, seeing current members, wishing Silvia Connell Happy Birthday and of course eating great food. After the long drive most folks just retired to their coaches with a few congregating in Erickson’s coach for games.

Friday we all gathered for lunch at a local eating establishment known for serving food and drinks with a side of sarcasm. Dick’s Last Resort is a chain that easily could accommodate our entire group. As to be expected, our group got right into the swing of things and were “rewarded” (or humiliated) with fun hats. See the crazy pictures. The food was not up to our high expectations. Afternoon was free time to enjoy the many sights of the area. In the evening we gathered again in the barn for a Cowboy themed bar-b-que feast. Wow what great food – pulled pork with lots of different sauces and shredded chicken provided by the hosts and great sides provided by everyone else. Most folks came in cowboy dress with hats, shirts, and boots. There were Cowgirls Scarves for the ladies and Sheriff Badges for the fellows. As usual, everyone got into the spirit. After dinner out came the cards, dominos, games, and laughter.

Saturday morning was again free time. Some of the group found a fabulous place for breakfast. Check with Bob Connell for the location. Another group went to the Wild Bear Inn for a good German lunch. Also Saturday morning a few fellows gathered to fix or trouble shoot problems with our coaches. These fellows enjoy helping each other and it gives them time for “engineering bonding.” The fellows worked on the following this weekend:

- Randall Caruthers wanted to replace his florescent bulbs so the fellows cut out the control board in the fixtures and connected LED strips. They found a blown fuse, taped 6 strips into the kitchen fixture which lit up the kitchen.
- Chuck Boucher’s windshield shade was not working so the fellows helped to remove the shade in hopes of getting to the motor. They successfully removed the shade but could not find the connectors they expected in order to get the shade down. After reinstalling the shade, Chuck took the coach to Red Bay to get it repaired.
- Donett Murphy’s steps were not working. After checking the fuses, they looked under the steps and found a pinched cable. They temporary repaired the cable and Donett was so grateful to be able to get herself and her dogs in and out of the coach that she cried...what a wimp!!!

Saturday evening we had reservation to attend a Mystery Dinner Theater for a production of “Who Shot the Sherriff”. So we all got cleaned up, combed our hair, put on cologne and off we went to the theater. The food was acceptable and the production was fun. As always, our group got singled out for being rowdy. Thanks Randall. The entire theater sang Happy Birthday to Silvia Connell...this was Silvia’s birthday weekend. Back to our coaches and after sundown the Borchers and Caruthers drove to Dollywood to see their fireworks.

Sunday morning Sue and Donett prepared breakfast. Fresh breads, yogurts, fruits and other goodies were served as a send-off for the long drive home. Thankfully, Sunday travels were safe but slow in spots. Now we are preparing for the next gathering at the Texas T campground just across the Tennessee border in August - ya’ll come. Be sure to call the campground to make your reservations and then call the Ericksons to tell them you are coming; see the club’s campout schedule at the end of this newsletter for the phone numbers.