



## Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

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**March 18 - 22, 2020**  
**Cancelled Rally at**  
**Scenic Mountain RV Park, Milledgeville, GA**  
**Scheduled Hosts: Raymond & Donna Birt**  
**Co-Hosts: Fred & Shirley Lee and Bill Lyles**



Well folks, the scheduled rally was for Scenic Mountain RV Park, but it was cancelled due to the Coronavirus threat. For those of you not on distribution, the following is the cancellation announcement from our President, dated 14 March: ***After watching Brian Kemp's update on the Corona Virus, where he put the State Of Georgia in a Health State of Emergency, I am officially canceling the rally. The campground is not closing, if you still decide to go camping at Scenic Mountain. If you decide to cancel, please let me know via text or e-mail and call the campground. Their number is 478-454-1013. As long as you call two days before you were going to arrive, they will refund you deposit. This is a hard decision for me to make, but I think it is the best for everyone's health. If you do decide to go, let us know, we live so close, that we can ride up there to see those that are there.*** Note, FMCA on the day before, had cancelled their 101<sup>st</sup> International Convention and RV Expo scheduled for March 26-29 in Tucson, AZ. However, by the next week the cancellation was a mute issue, as all events in the USA were shutdown.

As for cancellations, it seems everything in the USA has been cancelled, postponed, or completed with no audience allowed. The Professional Bull Riding (PBR) event was completed on schedule in Atlanta, but no audience was allowed to attend. NASCAR postponed all their racing events in Atlanta for the same weekend. The Major League Baseball opening has been delayed. In my home County of Gilmer, they have closed schools and other venues. Here in the liberal mecca of Tucson, everything has been basically shutdown. They had some festivals and other events on their calendar, and they were cancelled or postponed. The schools are closed. Tours at the various attractions have been terminated. There are no toilet paper or paper towels on the store shelves, but plenty of Pepto Bismol and anti-diarrhea medicine. Seems they have gotten the cart before the horse. However, the casinos are open and business is striving. And, in case you did not know, Martha and I did not come to Tucson to attend the FMCA convention. We planned this trip in the Fall of 2018, to take in January of 2019, but my health did not allow it. So here we are in 2020. We were staying at the Pima County Fairgrounds campground, where the FMCA convention was to be held, but all campers were suppose to clear out of there by 15 March to make ready for FMCA. Guess they don't have to leave now.

Even though the Georgia Mountaineers did not have a rally, thought I would do a little documentation for history and record the planned attendees, including the visitors.

**Planned Attendees -- Members:** Paul & Leann Appel, Raymond & Donna Birt, Hubert & Marsha Brown, Eldridge & Bobbie Cannon, Dorris & Ethel Carpenter, Bill & Linda Davis, Frank & Deneal Emerson, Jim & Janice Hamby, Nick & Darlene Knowlton, Fred & Shirely Lee, Bill Lyles, Jim & Karen Mathis, Wayne & Anne Mickey, Mike & Kathie Newton, Roy & Kathy Perry, Sam & Dottie Reese, and Doug & Sherry Wright.

**Planned Attendees -- Visitors:** Doug & Ginger Henry from Grayson GA, Bill & Nancy Hughes from Dawsonville GA, John Sakers & Fran Hogan from Acworth GA, and Dudley & Teresa Smith from Loganville GA. To our Visitors, we are sorry the rally was cancelled and we hope you will be able to attend another rally later this year.

With no rally and no Rally Agenda, there is basically no news to write regarding the week's events. But, I do want to thank Deneal Emerson for volunteering to write most of the newsletter this month in my absence. Support like that is really appreciated and it makes our Chapter run better when volunteer help pitches in. **THANKS again Deneal!**

**But, there was a mini non-Rally. I found out that the Carpenters, the Knowltons, and visitors, Dudley & Teresa Smith, did not cancel their reservations and went to Milledgeville. The best I can determine, since everything was pretty much closed down, they got in several games of Fast Track. See the photo.**



**Tech Article:** In the absence of rally news, I did have an article of interest I was going to include. But after reading it again, it did not seem that interesting, so I dropped it. Instead I am going to summarize an article on RV Surge Protectors by Mike Sokol. To read the entire article, go to <http://www.georgiamountaineers.org/RV-Parks/Do You Need a Surge Protector.pdf>. The purpose of the article was to answer the question, does it make sense to spend \$300 to \$500 to have a surge protector. I know some RV'ers that have camped for many years and never had an electrical problem or damage from low or high voltage, or other conditions like reversed polarity and no ground. But, I also know others who have had thousands of dollars of damage and necessary repair work, that a \$400 surge protector would have prevented.



First of all, how do they work? They plug in between your power cord and the campground power pedestal outlet. When you turn the breaker on at the power pedestal, the surge protector delays any voltage going to your RV until it has time to analyze the conditions. The one I have takes two minutes to do this. After the two minutes, if all is OK, it passes power to the RV. If all is not OK, it gives you a digital and/or LED readout or alarm, and based on the problem found, it does not turn on the power to the RV. You can try resetting the breaker at the pedestal first, but if the condition is still present, you need to call the campground to come check out the power pedestal. If after they finish and you plug back in, and the same condition appears, I recommend you asking the campground to move you to another campsite. If everything is OK at initial plug-in, the unit continues to monitor the power levels and conditions, and if problems, or harmful high or low voltages are encountered, it shuts off power to the RV until the condition is corrected.

I purchased one several years ago and I do believe it has saved me some repair bills. Some higher-end RV's come with a surge protector built-in, or you can buy a model that is hardwired into your power circuit. If you do buy a portable unit like mine, I recommend you get the lock box that prevents the unit from being unplugged from your power cord. Or you and the unit may soon part ways. Based on what I have read, when these things first came out and were not locked, they were the number theft item in a campground. The theft rate exceeded that for bicycles and nice portable grills. Anyway, whether to buy a Surge Protector or not is really a personal preference based on dollars, your peace of mind, or prevention awareness.

**Article of Interest:** After writing the above tech article, I did come up with an item of interest that was recently brought to my attention. And that is the question of why do our Chapter Visitors and Guests not pay a Rally Fee? Here's a little history on the subject. Several years ago, I believe back in 2007, when I was president, someone complained about Visitors and Guests not paying and wanted it discussed at the next Business Meeting. It was put on the Business Meeting Agenda and word circulated a few weeks before the meeting. At the Business Meeting, it was discussed in detail, with many speaking about the subject. Bottom line, only the original complainer spoke negatively about it. In the end, it was put up for a vote and the Chapter voted almost unanimously to have the Visitors and Guests continue to not pay. This was something the members were proud of. In fact, it somewhat surprised me about their attitude and the pride they shared in the fact that these folks did not pay due to our Chapter Hospitality. And, it has remained that way ever since.

Now, that does not apply to member's Guests. If someone, family or friend, is attending the rally (or Host prepared/furnished meal), as a guest of a member with no intentions of joining our chapter; then they do pay a Rally Fee. Let me give you a give example of why. I grew up about nine miles from Sugar Mill RV Park near Ochlocknee. I have around 20 nieces and nephews about my age, who live in the area. They have grown married children who live in the area. I have other relatives and friends who live in the area. If I was to invite them to the Low Country Boil and the chapter paid for it -- it would bankrupt us. I do invite some of them, but I pay a Rally Fee for them. Anyway, that is the history in a nutshell. If someone really wants to pursue the subject further or has more questions, recommend they bring the matter to the attention of our President.

## ***Travels:***

**The Barretts:** Ted and Martha were on an extended trip to southwest Arizona. This is the first extended trip they had taken since 2016, and this one was originally planned for 2019, but had to be postponed due to health issues. Instead of touring a three state area, like they have normally done on previous trips, they decided to restrict this trip to just the Phoenix, Tucson, and further southwest corner of Arizona.

They left home on 15 February, the day after Ted's last radiation treatment, and arrived in Tucson on 21 February. So far they toured Pima Air & Space Museum, East and West Saguaro National Parks, Tucson Mountain Park, spent over a week at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, and drove up Kitt Peak to the observatories. They also tried to tour both the civilian and military airplane bone yards, but without success. They had planned on moving from Tucson to Phoenix on 18 March, to attend a two day Professional Bull Riding event. However, with the Covin-19 Virus, the event was canceled. Plus news was that Phoenix had no food on the shelves and all the restaurants had been shut down. So they made a decision to cut their trip short and head back home over a month early – a real Bummer regarding the trip, but probably the very best decision overall regarding their health.

***Ted Barrett***  
***Newsletter Editor***

**Rally Reminders: Look for an email from Raymond regarding any cancellations, or changes in status to the rallies.**

**April: 15<sup>th</sup> thru 18<sup>th</sup> Riverbend Campground.** Hiawassee GA. 706-896-1415.  
Address: 2626 Streak Hill Road, Hiawassee GA. See <http://www.riverbendcamping.com>  
**Hosts: Appels & Stephens**

**May: 20<sup>th</sup> thru 23<sup>rd</sup> Sugar Mill RV Park.** Ochlocknee GA. 229-227-1451.  
Address: 4857 McMillan Road, Ochlocknee, GA. See <http://www.sugarmillrvpark.com>  
**Hosts: Barretts & McKellars**

**June: 17<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup> Leisure Acres Campground.** Cleveland GA. 706-865-6466.  
Address: 3840 Westmoreland Road, Cleveland, GA. See <http://www.leisureacrescampground.com>  
**Hosts: Carpenters & Durrences**

**July: 22<sup>nd</sup> thru 25<sup>th</sup> Spring Lake RV Resort.** Crossville TN. 877-707-1414.  
Address: 255 Fairview Drive, Crossville, TN See <http://www.springlakervtn.com>  
**Hosts: Newtons**