

THE MOUNTAINEER



Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

May 19 - 23, 2021
Noccalula Falls Campground
Gadsden, Alabama
Hosts: Phipps and Knowltons

Noccalula Falls Park is just two miles from downtown Gadsden on the beautiful Black Creek. It is a 250 acre public park featuring a 90-foot waterfall. Hiking trails wind through Black Creek Gorge past caves, an aboriginal fort, an abandoned dam, a pioneer homestead, Civil War carvings, and the [Gilliland-Reese Covered Bridge](#) built in 1899. It was originally known as the Black



Creek Falls, the Legend of Noccalula, as written by Mathilde Bilbro, says that "long ago, on a mountain summit within sight and sound of a rushing waterfall, lived a great Indian chief whose young daughter, Noccalula, was famed far and wide for her beauty and loveliness of character." Many gallant braves lobbied the old chief for the hand of Noccalula, but only one was favored by the girl's father, a rich chief of a powerful neighboring tribe, who had much to offer in exchange: wampum, horses and blankets. Noccalula pleaded that her heart was already given to a young brave from her own tribe. This young warrior, though noted for his skill and valor, possessed little in worldly goods. The old chief refused to listen and ordered his daughter to make ready for the marriage he had arranged. What was a maiden's silly fancy compared to many horses, much wampum, and union with another strong tribe? The girl's lover was driven from the tribe and a marriage agreement was made with the neighboring chief. The wedding day came and a great feast was prepared. In silence, Noccalula allowed herself to be arrayed in festive wedding robes. Overcome with grief, she quietly slipped away from the merrymakers during the festivities as the soft rhythmical rush of waters called her. For a moment, she stood poised upon the brink of the yawning chasm. One leap, and she took the step that ended her life, depriving not only her husband and greedy father, but her lover, of any hope of stealing her away, her community of all she had to offer, and herself of all that could have





been. Heartbroken, the remorseful father gave the great cascade his daughter's name. Since that day the waterfall has been called Noccalula Falls.

Many of the park's campsites back up to the shaded banks of the beautiful Black Creek with its sparkling clear water, small rippling rapids, and rocky bottom.

Members Camping: Ted & Martha Barrett, Hubert & Marsha Brown, Dorris & Ethel Carpenter, Ed & Patricia Durrence, Fred & Marianna Glantzbert, Jim & Janis Hamby, Virginia Jackson, Nick & Darlene Knowlton, Wayne & Anne Mickey, John Sakers & Fran Hogan, Tom & Marilyn Phipps, Julie Simpson, Jack White, and Frank & Cathy Williams. Bill Lyles also Bob-Tailed in for the entire rally.

Visitors Camping: Last month we had the largest group of Visitors, 10 coaches, we have ever had in the history of our chapter and all of them were First Time. This time we equaled that record with 10 more coaches. The First Time Visitors are George & Linda Underwood, Jim & Ethel Walters, Peter & Linda Burr, and Faylene Wright. The Second Time Visitors are Jim & Betty Duncan, Larry & Connie Rosenberry, John & Tina Hopper, Larry & Penny Ebest, Chuck & Adele Rasbach, and Chris & Susan Edmonson. And GREAT NEWS: All six Second Time Visitors joined our chapter. Welcome to the Georgia Mountaineers.

Monday: It a beautiful day for travel and the Barretts arrived in the morning. Already there were the, Glantzbergs and Knowltons, who arrived on Sunday. Also arriving today were the Carpenters, Durrences, Ebests, Edmonsons, Jackson, Phipps, Rosenberrys, White, and Williams. Dinner was various places, but the Phipps went to Shoney's and found they had a \$7 buffet on Tuesday night and put it on the Rally Agenda. There was no campfire.

Tuesday: It was another good day for travel and today's arrivals were the Browns, Miceys, Rasbachs, and Walters. It was around dinner time after everyone setup, so it was off to Shoney's for a buffet dinner. After getting back to the campground, there were games in the clubhouse and a roaring campfire behind the Barrett's coach.

Wednesday: The good weather was still holding to welcome today's arrivals, which included the Burrs, Duncans, Hambys, Hoppers, Sakers & Hogan, Simpson, Underwoods, and Wright. The Meet & Greet at 4:30PM was a fantasy food fest. The Hosts prepared large pots of Ravioli and Meat Balls. And it was matched with the members bringing in dishes of appetizers, salads, desserts, and Hors d'Oeuvres. No one should have went home hungry and it was all very delicious. Ted made opening remarks, including welcoming the 10 visiting couples. And similar to last month, asked that each visiting couple tell us a little about themselves, to include their backgrounds and various interests. The introductions took a little while, but it was worth while as we learned something about our visitors and they did too. After that the Hosts went over the Rally Agenda, where they had added a travel event for every morning but Sunday. The rally fees were collected by Bill. That evening it was games in the clubhouse and there was a large group around the campfire.



Thursday: The Unclaimed Baggage Shop in Scottsboro was the primary destination of many of our rally attendees today. Some found bargains or just enjoyed looking at what owners never claimed. Afterwards, The Ice Cream Shop was visited by many of the members. Who could pass up ice cream when it was on special at **5 cents** a scoop. Not everyone went on the daily tours, as some ventured out to drive the scenic routes in the area. This is especially true for the Lookout Mountain Parkway and Little River Canyon drives. That evening we caravanned to Pruett's BBQ for dinner. However, Pruett's was not able to handle the large crowd. A quick phone call to Top of the River resolved the problem. So it was across the road to a seafood dinner. Top of the River seated us immediately in a separate room and we were served very quickly. As usual, it was a very good seafood dinner for most. After dinner it was back to the clubhouse for games and another big circle around the campfire.



Friday: Today's agenda included a trip to the Tigers for Tomorrow at Attalla, AL. It is home to over 175 animals including tigers, mountain lions, African lions, bears, wolves,



black leopards and so many more wonderful animals. Over 90 of the animals are big cats, bears, and wolves. It is a last stop preserve for predatory animals. The ones they have live there for the rest of their lives. It is located on 140 acres in Dekalb County. Most of the animals there were discarded when they were no longer wanted or could no longer work or earn



money for their proprietors. Some members chose to stay in the campground and visit or just kick back and rest. All too soon it was time for our evening meal. We caravanned to Mater's Pizza and Pasta in the old down town area. They had a very varied menu with something for everyone, besides just pizza and pasta. Everyone seemed to really enjoy their food. Back at the campground the choices were games in the clubhouse, gathering around a campfire and tell tall tales, or returning to your motor home to just kick back and relax.

Saturday: A visit to a local Farmers Market was to main item on the agenda today. In addition to fresh produce, Amish butter and cheese, there were chicks, pigs -- well you name it for sell. The Hoppers bought a bunch of camellia bushes, and Virginia almost came home with a little black pig. We gathered at the Top of the River restaurant again for our evening meal. Quite a few ordered the large seafood platter per couple and split it. That restaurant does an excellent job of feeding large groups in record time. And their food has been great every time the Mountaineers have been there.

Sunday: Sunday morning we gathered in the clubhouse for biscuits with sausage gravy and coffee. Comments were heard that the sausage gravy was the best ever; and the biscuits were also very, very good. Afterwards, Wayne gave a short devotional. The Rally Hosts were thanked and Ted announced that all the Second Time Visitors had joined and they were welcomed with a big round of applause. All too soon it was time to say good bye until the next time.

A very unusual sight in the park is that of black squirrels. Scientists believe that many years ago a black Fox squirrel crossbred with a Gray squirrel and the results are black colored Gray squirrels.

Editorial Comment: In all the years with the Georgia Mountaineers, this is the first time I know of where there have been Gremlins with our reservations with the restaurants. The first occurrence was Thursday evening at Pruetts' BBQ. When we arrived, we were told the restaurant had no record of our reservations and that they did not take reservations. That seating was first come first served once all of those in a party had arrived, that they did not hold any seating. Pruetts' is right across the road from the Top of the River restaurant and quick thinking by some resulted in a phone call to Top of the River. They told us they could take us in immediately. So most of us crossed the road and had a great seafood dinner and very quick service. The next occurrence was Saturday evening when Top of the River was the



planned destination on the Rally Agenda. When we arrived, we were told they had no record of our reservations and it would be a 45 minute wait at the shortest to get seated into a room. After our president complained, the manager came out and said he could get us in immediately if we did not wait on a room, but would split up at different tables. We were escorted in and most of us who stayed wound up sitting at two very long tables, with a few others seated next to a window. All in all, everything turned out OK, but they sure were some Gremlins somewhere.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Rally Hosts are still needed for July and September.

Martha Barrett
Newsletter Editor

RALLY REMINDERS:

June: 16th thru 19th **Leisure Acres Campground.** Cleveland GA. 706-865-6466, 3840 Westmoreland Road, Cleveland, GA. See <http://www.leisureacrescampground.com>
Hosts: Miriam Armstrong, Barretts, & Glantzbergs

July: 28th thru 31st **Spring Lake RV Resort.** Crossville TN. 877-707-1414, 255 Fairview Drive, Crossville, TN. See <http://www.springlakervtn.com>
Hosts:

August: 18th thru 21st **Willow Valley RV Resort.** Rabun Gap GA. Campsite Release Date 15 July. 706-746-0078, 323 Yorkhouse Road, Rabun Gap, GA.
See <https://willowvalleyrv.com>
Hosts: Birts & Wrights