

CAMPOUT April 5-12, 2015, Lake Hartwell Camping and Cabins, Townville, South Carolina

By Bobbi Harden

Photos are on our Southeast Lows Facebook page.

There were seven attendees, Dorothy Spang, David Poole, Larry Massey, John Henry Markham, Cheryl Love, Bobbi Harden and, Al Pearce (our newest member), After a Lasagna dinner [provided by Bobbi] on Sunday evening, we caught up on winter activities and then had an early night.

Monday, we started out with a visit to the Palmetto Moonshine Distillery in Anderson, South Carolina, for a FREE tour and tasting. Good stuff, but only 105 proof. Left there with many purchases and a smile on everyone's face. Our next stop was for lunch at a Pizza Buffet, good food and very reasonable. After lunch was a visit to the Split Creek Goat Farm, famous for all types of goat milk products. Interesting operation but muddy and smelly; and because it was beginning to rain, we left in a hurry without buying anything. The evening was spent playing cards in the camp activity room, made available to us for the whole week by the campground management

Tuesday, All points bulletin, John Henry was lost...again. He was to meet up with his daughter at our campground, as she lives only a few miles away. Apparently, she thought we were at our usual state park campground, not the private one. She didn't have John Henry's cell number and he didn't have hers. After five visits to the state park and finding no record of him there, she became extremely concerned and contacted the police in his home town. After talking with his neighbors, the detective was able to contact him before they issued a nationwide Silver Alert and put him on milk cartons (or beer cans). John Henry and his daughter did finally get to spend a day together so all was well. Never a dull moment with this motley crew. After all this excitement, we had a few hours of shopping and then a visit to Issaqueena Falls and the Stumphouse Tunnel. Construction of the tunnel was started in 1852 for railroad access through the mountains to connect Charleston and Knoxville. But, due to the Civil war and lack of funds, construction was brought to a halt. Of the 1617 feet dug out, the public only has access to the front half of the tunnel because of falling rock in the back half.

Wednesday, as this was the only day of the week with a rain-free forecast, we rented a pontoon boat from the campground, packed a lunch and headed out on Lake Hartwell for a half-day ride. After lunch we decided to tie up at the dock of one of the largest marinas on the lake to get ice cream. The ship's store was closed--for good??? In the evening we had our customary pot luck, with John Henry treating us to ham for dinner.

Thursday, Our first stop was a visit to Hagood Mill, Pickens County, still in operation on certain weekends. We toured the historical buildings on the grounds and took a short nature walk. Once a month, they have a festival with music and volunteers showing how things were done in the last century, but not on the day we were there. On Larry's recommendation, we ate lunch at Aunt Sue's Country Corner restaurant, a lot of food and very good.

Friday, RAIN, RAIN and more RAIN. Stayed in our coaches or did a quick trip to Walmart/etc.

Saturday, we drove to Belton, South Carolina, for their annual Chili Cook-off. Folks from all over compete, and for \$5.00 we got to taste eight different chilies. Some in our group paid \$16.00 to taste all of them. This is quite an event, as the competitors win money if voted best of the cook-off. We each had a vote, but after tasting so many, it was hard to remember which we thought was the best. On our way home we stopped at Hartwell Dam and walked across the top of it to enjoy the view. Instead of our usual dinner out on the last night, we had a pizza party; and after, sat around and chatted until dark. A very enjoyable week was had by all.