

SeLoW Newsletter



Southeast Chapter Loners on Wheels

August-September 2014

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Links

SeLoW Website: <http://selows.lonersonwheels.com/>. Our Campout Schedule, Newsletters, and links to photo slide shows and photos are on this site.

Southeast Lows on Facebook: In Facebook, enter *Southeast Lows* in the Search box. Any member of our group on Facebook can post campout pictures.

Shutterfly: <http://www.selows.shutterfly.com>. Once on the site, click Photos and Videos, then click the first photo for a larger view. You can click Slide Show or scroll through by clicking the arrows. Any member can post campout photos on our Shutterfly site.

Membership

The updated Membership Roster (dated September 5, 2014) is attached to the email along with this newsletter. One person joined at the August campout: **Laurie Krusinski**, Tualatin, OR. Three people who didn't renew their LOW and SeLoW memberships were removed from the roster. Others who didn't join or haven't renewed their LOW membership may be removed from the roster later. A reminder that you must be a member of LOWs to remain a member of SeLoWs. Total SeLoW membership is now 53.

LoWs 45th Anniversary Rally in Sedalia, MO

The LoW website has information about the Anniversary Rally, October 1-5, 2014 in Sedalia, MO; and the LoW Newsletter has an application form. The people who plan to travel with us to Sedalia via Nashville TN, Poplar Bluff MO, and Branson MO (or meet us somewhere on the way) are Bobbi Harden, Cheryl Love, Dale Koepka, Dave Elenburg, John Henry Markham, Ken Wiggs, Laurie Krusinski, Pat Moore, Calvin Metts, Jeannine Fontaine, and maybe Sandra Burns. I will be sending out trip information only to those people. If you plan to join us but your name isn't listed here, let me know and I'll add your name to the trip email list. Also please let me know if you're listed and you do not plan to join us.

Our Alaska Travelers

All of our Alaska travelers (Bobbi Harden, Daryl Sponseller, Linda Kendall, and Steve Cohn) are back in the states. Bobbi is home and will host the September campout in Franklin and join the caravan to the Sedalia Rally.

Campout Notes in the Newsletters

The reports from campouts the past couple of years have been mostly from my point of view because I attended all the campouts. Sometimes others suggested things to include or told me about day trips that I didn't attend, and I appreciated the suggestions. So I thought it might be a good idea to say that any time anyone on a campout wants to contribute something for the newsletter, please do. I may edit for space, level of embarrassment, etc., but I'll use what I can.

Campout July 6–13, Tom Johnson's Camping Center, Charlotte NC

Photos are on our Facebook page. The campground is at the Charlotte Motor Speedway--gravel sites--no grass--no trees--July heat--but we managed to have a great time. We had six members: Jimmy Crawford and Cheryl Love (co-hosts), John Henry Markham, Larry Massey, Vicki Glover, and Edith Skinner. We had two guests come by to meet everyone: Helen Porter and her sister, Brenda. Helen doesn't have an RV but is considering buying one, and after touring our RVs and listening to our opinions and advice, she went to look at RVs at Tom Johnson's. Maybe we'll see her at a campout with a new RV sometime next year.

The campground being near the racetrack and Tom Johnson's gave us a large area to walk around, and we did that several times in the evenings, after it cooled off. On Monday, we went on the racetrack tour. Our 80-year-old driver drove 85-90 mph on the racetrack, then stopped on the 24-degree bank and we felt as though we would topple over. He drove around the tracks, giving us the history, then drove over to the zMax dragway and gave us the feel of drag racing as we raced a tour van in the other lane. Again, we reached 85-90 mph--and beat the other driver.

After our red-white-and-blue bagels breakfast provided by Jimmy on Tuesday, we went downtown Charlotte to the Visitors Center, then walked over to the Nascar Hall of Fame. Everyone but Larry and I decided to have lunch at the adjoining Wild Wings Cafe instead of touring the museum. Not being a big Nascar fan, I thought the best part of the museum was the realistic racing simulator. Twelve people were in cars on the track; you saw the other cars on your screen, and a voice in your headphones warned you as other drivers were about to pass. I finished 6th out of 12, but Larry spun out and finished 9th (the printer wasn't working so we don't know our speeds). The lunch group drove around Charlotte before returning to the campground, and Larry and I walked through the Epicenter before returning to the campground. That night, four of us went to the Legends Summer Shootout at the racetrack. It was a fun time. Several races were young kids (youngest winner was 11 years old), then semi-pros, pros, and old-timers (40+). Local church pastors racing buses were a hoot.

On Wednesday, the women went to Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, toured the plantation and farm buildings, and had a great \$5 senior lunch at Lancaster's BBQ. The men toured the Michael Waltrip Racing Shop and watched 40 race cars in various stages of being built from the ground up.

On Thursday, we had reservations for a sunset-dinner cruise at Duffy's Electric Boats. The men toured the Hendrick (Racing) Museum and Team Store that afternoon, and the women toured the small town of Davidson. Then we all met at the North Harbor Club for drinks during a thunderstorm. Fortunately, the weather cleared in time for our cruise, and we had the lake almost to ourselves.

On Friday, most went to the Aviation Museum, which included the "Miracle on the Hudson" plane, and Vicki sat in a Phantom fighter plane from the Vietnam era. On Saturday, Jimmy and Cheryl toured the Mint Museum, which included a special exhibit, "Women of Vision" photographs from National Geographic. That night, we all went to the National Whitewater Center, had dinner, walked around, watched the whitewater rafters and zip-liners, and listened to the free concert.

Campout Aug 3–10, Croft State Park, Spartanburg, SC

Photos are on our Facebook page. We had 10 members (David Poole and Sharon Hatch (co-hosts), Cheryl Love, Vicki Glover, Bob Hollup, Barbara Overby, Jeannine Fontaine, John Henry Markham, Larry Massey, and Laurie Krusinski [new]) and 2 guests (Yvonne Painter and Jimmy McIntire). Unfortunately because of business or family matters, Jeannine and Vicki had to leave Tuesday. But we met Jimmy McIntire, who was on his first trip with a older motor home he had bought, and he joined us for a couple of days. After meeting us, he had planned to go to the Franklin campout and to the LOW Rally, but he sent an email that sickness in his family would prevent his going.

David Poole's family is from the area; he grew up there and still lives near Spartanburg, so he was a great tour guide for the area. He also knows all the back roads, and Larry had a difficult time keeping up with him when they both drove us to attractions.

Monday was a relaxing day; some went to the movies and shopping, and some explored trails around the campground. David and Sharon had a hamburger dinner for everyone that evening. They had planned it for Sunday, but everyone was tired from the job of leveling their RVs (another state park designed for older, smaller RVs).

On Tuesday, most of us went to the Walnut Grove Plantation, built by Charles and Mary Moore in 1763, when the area was known as the backcountry. The home, furnishings, and outbuildings portray living conditions in Spartanburg County prior to 1805. Bob and Jimmy passed on the plantation tour and instead chose to go watch the Carolina Panthers practice.

On Wednesday, we went to the BMW Zentrum Museum and factory tour. Jimmy may have saved us from an accident while traveling from the museum to the factory by yelling to the van driver, whose attention was momentarily diverted and didn't see the car backing into her path. BMW's only American factory is modern, automated with many robotics, and much quieter than the Freightliner factory we toured the next day. After the tour, we had lunch at the legendary Beacon Drive-in, drove to David's childhood home, to a mineral springs on his family's property, and then to his current home and rode down to his man-made fishpond.

On Thursday, we went on the Freightliner factory tour, where we saw them working on truck and bus chassis. Far less automation than the BMW factory and much, much noisier. We had lunch at the Clock Restaurant in Gaffney, and then drove around some of the small towns on the way back to the campground.

On Friday, we picked up lunch to take to David's mountain cabin. We enjoyed the scenic drive up to his cabin, complete with deer sightings and a beautiful waterfall, but the view from his cabin was obscured by rain and fog (so some of us tried again the next day with slightly better success). On the way back to the campground, we stopped at Cooley Farms at Strawberry Hill, USA for home-made ice cream, and some of us bought peaches and cider. (Those in the second car had a slight detour on the way when someone came on our walkie-talkie channel and told us they were stopping at Taco Bell for the ice cream.) After Strawberry Hill, we drove to Cowpens Battleground Museum and watched a film about the Revolutionary battle at Cowpens. Finished the day with a nice campfire.

Laurie and Barbara brought their kayaks, so they both kayaked on the lake at Croft during some of our down-times. The park had kayaks for rent, and Yvonne and I thought we would join Laurie and Barbara, but the only day we had the time, it looked like rain all day.

2014 Campout Schedule

Tell the Franklin campground that you're with SeLoWs when you make a reservation.

Sept 14–21 Cartoogechaye Creek Campground, 91 No Name Road, Franklin, N.C.28734.
828-524-8553, <http://www.franklin-chamber.com/cartoogechaye/>
Passport America, \$108/Week for 30amp; 50 amp +\$1.00/day.

As of now, no SeLoW campout is scheduled in October for those not attending the Anniversary Rally. If you would like to plan and host an October campout, let me (Cheryl Love) know and I'll send the details in an email to our members and post it on our website.

Caravan to the 45th Anniversary Rally in Sedalia, MO.

For the Sedalia caravan, tell the campgrounds that you're with LOWs and let Cheryl Love know when you've made reservations. Also let Cheryl know if you will be staying at different campground(s) from the ones listed below.

- Sep 21-25 Two Rivers Campground, Nashville, TN. 615-883-8559. Good Sam discount (no P/A parks in Nashville) \$41.05/day (total) w/o sewer and \$45.96/day (total) with sewer. They have 8 pull-throughs w/o sewer and 4 with sewer close together. Cancellation policy is 80% refund of your one-night deposit with a 24-hour notice, so you need to **register ASAP to ensure a site with the group.**
- Sep 25-26 Overnight in Poplar Bluff, Camelot RV Campground, 573-785-1016. \$29/day, full-hookups, cash or check upon arrival, no credit card number to hold site. No charge for cancellations, but let them know if you need to cancel. They *may not* have pull-throughs available for everyone, but there will be someone to help with backing in for those not towing. They may have pull-throughs for all of us, but those towing definitely will want pull-throughs. **Register ASAP.**
- Sep 26-30 Branson Ozark Country, Branson MO., 800-968-1300. They're holding 7 sites for us at this time, full hookups, mostly pull-throughs. Passport America \$20/day 30 amp, \$23/day 50 amp; Good Sam \$24/30 amp or \$27/50 amp. They have a pavilion we can use; they have a rally room if we have 10 or more. Cash or check on arrival. No charge for cancellation, but let them know. Because they're holding the sites for us, you need to **register ASAP to be with the group.**
- Sep 30 Drive to Sedalia for the LOW Rally. (Anyone going on the day trip from Sedalia to Branson will need to drive from Branson to Sedalia on the 29th.)
- Oct 1-5 Sedalia MO. LoW's 45th Anniversary Rally, <http://www.lonersonwheels.com/rallies.html>. The registration form is in the LOW Newsletter.

2015 Campout Schedule

If you would like to suggest a campground for 2015 and/or help with the 2015 camping schedule, please let Bobbi Harden know (and copy Cheryl Love to keep me in the loop). I received some suggestions at the August campout; these haven't been researched but were suggested: Old Federal Corps of Engineers, Flowery Branch, GA, on Lake Lanier; Diamond Lure, Ellijay, GA (I saw some mixed reviews on this one when verifying the name); Jekyll Island, Myrtle Beach area, or Outer Banks; Camping World Campground, Chattanooga, TN; State Park in Fairplay SC; Elijah Clark State Park, Lincolnton, GA.