

August 2016 Campout at Zooland Campground, Asheboro, NC

by Janet Dickson

We had nine people for all or part of the campout. Five members attended: Cheryl Love, Edith Skinner, Janet Dickson, Kat McGrath, and Sandy Burns; and four guests: Dale Koepka, Rod Jackson, Elaine Singletary, and Carolyn Scheid. The campground gave us the key to their lodge for the week, which was much appreciated because of the heat and rain during the week.

Most of us arrived Sunday afternoon. Sandy, who was recovering from a cold, came on Monday. We met at the Lodge at 4 pm, then came back later to play Mexican Train and get acquainted. Monday morning, we set off for the Visitors center in downtown Asheboro and got lots of information. Lots of Antique stores, thrift stores, and lots of rain. Sat on chairs in front of one store waiting for rain to slow so Dale could retrieve his car, take Cheryl back to hers, and then collect the rest of us. On Tuesday, we went to the Asheboro Zoo, the largest natural habitat zoo in North America. They have trams but there is a lot of walking. Sandy and Janet went back to the campground after lunch while the others saw more of the zoo. Wednesday all but Dale hopped into two cars and went to see pottery in Seagrove, the handmade pottery capital of the U.S. We met up at lunch, exchanged ideas and went on again. Pot Luck Wednesday night was excellent. As always, good variety of food, and we all had plenty to enjoy. Dale made sausage and biscuits for breakfast on Thursday. and we went off to the Aviation Museum, then the American Classic Motorcycle Museum and cafe. Food first and then upstairs to see exhibits. On the way back, we drove past the campground and down to the old Pisgah Covered Bridge. Had a short walk in the woods along the river, over a little bridge and then back up the other side to the covered bridge. Chalk was provided on the bridge so everyone could write something on the walls. Great fun!

Friday, after sausage and biscuits, Cheryl and Dale went zip-lining at Richland Creek Zip Line for the bargain price of \$35 each, and thoroughly enjoyed it. Rod went home to get something. Sandy, Kat, and Janet went to the orchid greenhouse, another pottery shop, and a metal-art place next door. Walgreens for Kat, and SPCA thrift shop after we ate at The Table downtown. Food was scrumptious. Time to find Enterprise so Sandy can turn in her rental. Very nice man drove us back to the campground. Pizza party for supper. Another YUM. On Saturday, Kat and Sandy left. The five of us who remained went to an auction in Asheboro, checked out the stuff and decided to leave. Dale returned later and got a good deal on some CDs. It was another hot day. Found an estate sale down a long driveway to a very nice house. Rod directed us to K&W cafeteria for lunch. Off to Richard Petty Museum. What a magnificent collection of firearms, trophies, and cars--both real and model. There was a model of an old Spanish Galleon hauled out of the ocean by Mel Fisher a number of years ago. Richard Petty was one of his sponsors. So many other things to see as well. His first race was in 1958 in Columbia, SC at an old dirt track that no longer exists. For happy hour, ice cream and a birthday cake for Dale (which he supplied). Sunday morning we all got up and went our separate ways, anticipating meeting again down the road.