

May 7-14, 2017 Campout, Happy Holiday Village, Cherokee, NC

By Bobbi Harden and Cheryl Love

Our second campout of the year was held at Happy Holiday RV Village, Cherokee, NC. Bobbi and Jeannine were co-hosts, with assistance from Rodger and Linda Kendall. There were 20 members (2 new members) and 3 guests for a total of 23 attendees for all or part of the campout. We met for coffee at 8:30 a.m. each morning to give everyone a chance to decide what they wanted to do that day; and for happy hour at 4 p.m. to socialize and discuss the day trips.

During the week many of us visited the Mountain Farm Museum, the Mingus Grist Mill, Clingman's Dome (highest point), Mingo Falls, and the three Deep Creek Falls in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Twenty of us took the 4-1/2 hour Great Smoky Mountains train trip from Bryson City to the Nantahala Outdoor Center on the Nantahala River (famous for rafting, kayaking, and international water sports). Many visited the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Soco Falls, and several gift shops featuring authentic native crafts and food stuffs; and, of course, several trips to Harrah's Cherokee Casino.

We all enjoyed a hot dog and hamburger dinner on Monday evening, potluck dinner on Wednesday evening (including cake and ice cream for John Henry's and Bobbi's May birthdays), and pancakes and sausages for breakfast on Thursday morning. Thanks to all the cooks: Bobbi, Rodger, and Linda Kendall. As usual, the last day for most of us was spent finding farmers' markets and flea markets looking for bargains.

Unfortunately for some of us, some of the trip was spent at the Sylva Hospital ER. We had two medical emergencies during the campout (maybe at our age, we're lucky it doesn't happen more often). Bob Hollup was dizzy and passed out in his RV Thursday morning. When he was able to alert someone, an ambulance was called. Bea and John Henry followed the ambulance to the hospital, and Bea spent most of Friday at the hospital with Bob. Bob was back at the campground Saturday morning when Bea alerted us she had sciatica pain and needed a ride to the ER; Vicki and Cheryl volunteered to take her. Both Bob and Bea had family and friends coming to drive them and their RVs home on Sunday or Monday, and both plan to follow up with their doctors at home. We wish them both well.

Because of the medical emergencies and lack of cell phone service in the campground, we discussed having a buddy-system at future campouts. If you don't show up at group activities, only your designated buddy will be calling or knocking on your door, instead of everyone.