



Golden Triangle Campers Newsletter

March-April 2023

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March- April Birthdays

Steve Griffin 4/14
 Jim Humphrey 3/25
 Rose Lima 3/14
 Carol Raabe 4/19
 Julie Ritter 4/16
 Rick Stahurski 4/29
 Rose Mary Culp 3/13
 Ted Litz 3/2



February Anniversaries

Nelson and Rose Lima 3/5
 Tim and Julie Ritter 3/8



Cares & Concerns

- Mickey and Janet Marks son, Mark McHaffie, is undergoing treatment for rectal cancer.
- Cookie Green's cancer has returned and she is under treatment.
- Michele Humphrey had a serious fall and is recovering from her injuries.
- Reba Ward is having wrist and hand surgery where she is having numbness.

- Jan Heise is having cataract surgery in both eyes.
- Mickey Marks is wearing a monitor to determine whether he needs a pacemaker.
- Roger Hime has been having back issues that cause pain in his legs.
- Carol Griffin has a spur in the AC joint of her shoulder which is causing her pain.

Our Sunshine Chairman, Shirley Fiorentino, sends cards out to those in our group in need. Please let her know if you know of anyone in our group with health or other issues who could use a card to cheer them up or let them know we care about them.



March Caravan

After a couple successful spring caravan trips in the past our unofficial wagonmaster, Sharon Hime, again organized another great spring caravan.

This year several of the group including Griffin, Hime, Lundmark, Ritter, Stahurski and new friends, Tony and Gina Mason, started the trip by attending the FMCA rally in Perry, GA.



Some of our caravan attendees enjoyed the FMCA Rally

Those who attended the FMCA rally had a good time and enjoyed great entertainment. They met up

with the rest of us at Sugar Mill RV Park in Thomasville,GA.



At Sugar Mill the weather was cold, but not as cold as Perry at the FMCA Rally.

Those from the Perry FMCA Rally were joined on Sunday at Sugar Mill by Heise, Humphrey, Ward, Morris and Jim and Vickie Cull, who are friends of the Manns.

On Monday, Bill and Michele Mann arrived, and much to their dismay, their slide broke while they were opening it. The problem was a sheared off bolt in the drive mechanism. Roger, Tim and Steve replaced the bolt and got it working in record time.



Roger, Tim and Steve repaired the Mann's slide out while the rest of us watched and provided moral support



We enjoyed happy hour at Sugar Mill

The park had a nice club house. We had a breakfast there prepared by the Himes and Ritters one morning, and we had a potluck dinner one evening. We also used it for playing games.



Himes and Ritters cooked us a great pancake and sausage breakfast one morning

At Sugar Mill we enjoyed socializing, visiting some local sites, playing games, and, of course, eating too much. One evening we had our traditional trip to Jonah's Fish and Grits restaurant. It was tough squeezing our large group in, but they managed to accommodate us at two large tables. We all enjoyed great meals.



We had dinner at our favorite restaurant in Thomasville, GA



We took up two tables and were joined by Steve and Carol's grandson Jackson.





After three nights at Sugar Mill we moved on to Hardridge Creek Corps of Engineers (COE) park near Abbeville, AL. We booked six months previously, so all of us were in the full hookup (FHU) area of the park.



Campfire at the Himes site was a nightly affair

Some of the group went exploring Abbeville planning to eat at Huggin' Mollys, but a staff shortage put them across the street at Money's



What do you do with a bunch of delicious leftover donuts?



The group touring Abbeville had lunch at Money's

I don't want people to think we just eat, but... Our next food outing was at Michelle's across the river from Eufaula for the Friday night seafood buffet.



You make toasted donuts with toppings for dessert



Hardridge Creek was a very wooded area and we had rain while there. There were several trails that some of us explored. Unfortunately, there were also a lot of ants, and almost all of our RVs were invaded by them, but never fear... Terro is here. Boy do they love that Terro. Several members brought firewood and Roger and Tim collected more while exploring the woods, so we had fires every night.



Dinner at Michelle's in Georgetown, GA

Saturday night we had severe weather at Hardridge Creek. However, most of the severe weather was north of us. Wait, isn't that where we are going next!



Source: [NOAA](#)

The tornado went through the area where we had our next reservations

Sunday morning we were planning to leave for R Shaefer Heard COE Park near Westpoint, GA. Bob Ward called the campground and found that the town had been flattened, and the campground was without water. We hastily formed "Plan B" cancelling our R Shaefer Heard reservations and scrambling to reserve sites for the next three nights at Hardridge Creek. So, even though we were ready to move on, we decided we were lucky to find sites at our current campground.



We made the most of the weather and had a hotdog cookout

We made the most of the weather and had a hotdog lunch at a pavilion on the lake. Members played a variety of games including beanbag baseball. The winning team posed with a big **W** so the losing team responded in kind with a big **L**.

Even when we had to change plans and the weather did not cooperate with us, our group stayed positive and had fun.



Our baseball teams displaying the big **W** and big **L**. After all... it's only a...**GAME**

After seven days at Hardridge Creek we packed up and hit the road for Foscue Creek in Demopolis, AL, our favorite COE park. It was a pretty long day with over 200 miles of driving, but we all made it fine.



Foscue Creek, our favorite COE Park

The campground was great, and we all had FHU sites in the same area we camped last year. The Wards had a large site and it was the location of our get-togethers.



The Wards' site was large and comfortable for our get-togethers

One of the neat things about Foscue Creek Campground is that it is located where the Black Warrior and Tombigbee Rivers come together. This stretch of water, which has six locks from

Tuscaloosa to Mobile, Alabama, is a main waterway for barges.



From our campsites we could watch barges, which were 600 feet long, on the river.

Bob and Reba Ward volunteer at this campground several months a year, and they were able to arrange a tour of the lock near the campground.



These locks raise and lower barges from 30-40 feet as they traverse the waterway.



Ranger Ann gave us a great tour of the lock and explained how everything worked



After the barge was raised over 30 feet, it exited the lock



Our group photo with Ranger Ann after our tour of the lock

After touring the lock, some of us went down to the picnic area below the spillway at the bottom of the lock. Tim and some of the rest of us had found some interesting driftwood there last year and we went looking for more. Later, others went back and returned with some unique pieces.



Looking for unique driftwood treasures



Now that's interesting! Everyone needs one of these treasures to decorate the RV.

We had many interesting activities at Foscue Creek. Several members toured Demopolis and found a nice bistro for lunch. For one of our meals we all ordered bar-b-que from a local restaurant and ate back at the campground.

One of the strangest celebrations occurred while we were there. It was Rooster Day. In 1919 Demopolis held a rooster auction to raise money to build the infamous "Rooster Bridge" over the Tombigbee River. Now they celebrate it annually.



Many of us celebrated Rooster Day in Demopolis while we were there



One evening sixteen of us played the nickels game, and it was lots of fun and laughs

After five nights at Foscue Creek, it was time to work our way back toward Florida. It was a wet trip to Hidden Hollow Campground south of Dothan, AL.



On the road again... Tim snapped a photo of the Heise RV as he passed them in the rain.



The trip to Hidden Hollow had issues ☹

Roger Hime had a problem stopping on the wet road only eight miles from the campout, and Dale Lundmark arrived with a bent tow bar on his rig.



Dale had a bent tow bar ☹

At Hidden Hollow we had two days of down time where we socialized, did laundry and relaxed as we prepared for the trip back to Florida for our April Golden Triangle Campers meeting.



Hidden Hollow Campground was very nice

Hidden Hollow is very nice and was initially developed as a resort. The current Bingo game building on the property was originally built as a casino. The developer also put in a large amphitheater. He felt it was not fair that only the native Americans could have casinos, and according to local residents, he bribed local and state officials to get the permits he needed to build. Once he installed his machines and opened up, the state came in and confiscated everything. This happened three times before it was completely shut down. At any rate we enjoyed the great facilities.



We enjoyed relaxing and taking some down time before returning to Florida.

On Wednesday, April 5th, we were on the road again headed for Suwannee River Rendezvous Resort near Mayo, FL. After being at Hidden Hollow, the word “resort” in the title was questioned by some in the group. However, we

have stayed here several times and always know what to expect; heat, flies, mosquitoes... Oh yeah, and plenty of good times with our friends.



We had our social time in the pavilion and were often treated to entertainment and drama from the adjacent swimming pool



We were hosted by the Humphreys one evening for a hot dog cookout

The campout was hosted by Jim and Michele Humphrey, with help from other members. The Wards did not continue with us to the April campout, but we were joined by Joe & Shirley Fiorentino and David Shultz. So, we had 12 RVs camping. At one of our social hours, Jerry and Martha Wright visited us. They were past members who are getting back into camping. Several members enjoyed visiting with them and we hope to see them camping with us in the future.

On Friday evening, the park hosts bingo. Some of our members attended, and Louise won \$100.



Our monthly Golden Triangle Campers Meeting

On Saturday morning after breakfast we had our monthly meeting presided over by club president, Rick Stahurski.

After lunch, we had our bean bag baseball game with randomly drawn teams. Blue team was down 9-3 at the top of the ninth when Jan got them going with a home run bringing in Joe on third base. They went on to score four more runs tying the game. But, alas in the bottom of the ninth, Louise came up for the red team and scored a home run crushing the blue team comeback.



I think Jan is going to throw a home run... and he did, but to little avail 😊



Our winning (mostly ladies) team!

Since Easter was Sunday, April 9th, we started this campout a day early so that everyone could go home on Saturday and be home for Easter. We are happy to report that everyone made it home safely.



Easter Sunrise with Wesley Church at West Melbourne Regional Park on the Space Coast