

SECU Camping Times

Unit 12 | Region 3

SECU Officers

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- Matt Hackney - President
- Lynn Talsma - Vice-President
- Beth Hackney - Secretary
- Irene O'Connell - Treasurer
- Trustee - Jerry O'Connell
- Trustee - Steve Cook

Membership Report

The current membership stands at:

- 94 Regular Members
- 117 Affiliate Members

Treasurer's Report

As of 6/1/24 the balance of our checking account was \$2467.31. No expenses have been charged against the balance since then.



From the President

I hope your Spring has been an enjoyable time filled with travel. This is a great time in our area for camping and we have had several great events since last I wrote. Beth spent a portion of our time settling into our new to us winter home at Traveler's Rest in Dade City. Many of us will be spending early 2025 there. In the last few weeks we have been finishing preparations for leading the caravan to Alaska. Unless you are on the caravan, you won't see us at a campsite until we reach Sedalia for the International Rally.

Thanks to our rally hosts for our spring events. Ron and Denise Sims planned and executed a great rally at Watson From the President (cont'd.) Mill Bridge, near Athens. We learned about the history of the park, viewed some special autos at a storage facility, and enjoyed the breweries of Athens. Cont'd on page 2.



Gary and Lynn Talsma hosted a neat event, as we explored Mt. Airy in April. It is amazing the impact Andy Griffith has had on this neat community. Lynn represented us well at the Region Rally in Doswell, where over 100 Airstreams gathered. Finally, Jean and Allen Hagggar planned and hosted a great rally at Julian Price. This was a very special dry camping event in a beautiful location.

Upcoming, Brett Greiveldinger and Lisa Forsyth will host Alumapalooza in Jackson Center, OH, September 3 - 8 (<https://alumaevents.com/>). A number of our members volunteer at this event and invite you to attend as well. Jerry and Irene O'Connell are hosting Apple Picking Time in September. An article describing this event is included in this newsletter edition. We are sorry to miss both of these events because of our caravan, but we hope to see many of you in October in Sedalia, MO or at Falluminum.

See you down the road!

Matt

10 Years Back - Remembering our history



Stews and Brews

At Watson Mill Bridge we started off with the always delicious Papparoni's pizza provided by Ron Kaes. Friday we learned about the covered bridge and the local history of the park on a walk with the park Naturalist. We finished the day with a potluck of lots of good stews. Saturday was spent visiting many breweries in Athens as well as the botanical gardens and other sites including a small museum with beautiful restored cars. Ron and Denise researched the area well to give the attendees lots of things to do. We might have to return because I don't believe anyone completed their brewery passports.





Exploring Mt. Airy

Lynn Talsma discovered a hidden gem in Mt. Airy. First we toured the Gertrude Smith home, then we all took a ride in a Mayberry Squad Car. Not because we were being arrested, but to explore much of Mt. Airy and learn about the little town of Mayberry and how the people embrace the TV show that put Mt. Airy on the map even if the show was never filmed there. The museum was quite impressive.





Julian Price

The Blue Ridge Parkway is always a beautiful place to visit. The weather that Jean and Allen Haggard scheduled for Julian Price was just perfect. Cool nights and pleasant days. We explored Grandfather Mountain, Boone, Valle Crucis and enjoyed plenty of good food.





Upcoming Rallies

Apple Picking

Whether you will be on your way home from Alumapalooza, on your way to Sedalia, MO, or just coming from home, you will enjoy the Apple Pickin' Time Rally September 11 - 15 at Fort Mountain State Park.

Preliminary on site schedule for the Apple picking rally.

Thursday - Potluck breakfast at host site or pavilion depending on weather.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, happy hour, 4:00pm at host site, or pavilion, depending on weather. Light or heavy hors d'oeuvres to be determined.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Get acquainted meetings at host site starting at 7:30pm. Bourbon, wine etc sharing. Solo stove fire. We may need one additional solo stove plus firewood.

All dinners are on your own. There will be no scheduled potluck dinners. Those wishing to join together for dinner can gather at the host site at 6:00pm or at the pavilion depending on weather. If at the host site please bring chairs and a small table. If gathering at the pavilion picnic tables are on site. One pop up canopy will be available at the host site, we may need a second one if someone has one.

On site activities at Fort Mountain State Park are:

- Thirteen Hiking trails.
- Three black diamond biking trails.
- Nine horse trails.
- One 18 hole miniature golf course.

Outside of the park, are three nearby cities to visit. The closest is Chatsworth Georgia, which offers axe throwing, knife throwing, darts etc. Chatsworth also has the closest Ingles grocery store at 7 miles from the park. Also, in Chatsworth is the Chief Vann House State Historic Site. It is the largest, most prosperous plantation in the Cherokee Nation.

In Blue Ridge we have both fine and casual dining, antique stores, high-end galleries, and a couple of brew houses. There is also a scenic railway tour that departs from Blue Ridge and travels to Copper Hill Tennessee and back.

In Ellijay, we have fine and casual dining, as well as a variety of antique stores and a couple of galleries. In the general area, there are several Apple orchards, thus the name, The Apple Picking Rally.

Other Upcoming Events

Falluminum

October 31 - November 3

SECU Members Ron Kaes and his wife Brenda are hosting this rally from Oct 31-Nov 3, 2024. This is a busy time at the campground and we have the available sites in sections G, H, and upper A reserved. We plan to hold all events at the upper pavilion adjacent to Hamilton Gardens. Note that Sites G-1-3 are very short. Contact the park by phone soon at 706-896-4191. Make sure to mention the Airstream Rally! or Falluminum. Let Ron know you are coming (pizzachop@windstream.net)

Bent Oak Farm Rally

November 7 - 10

Register for this event by sending an email to Pat Griffith:

(patgriffith78@outlook.com)

This again will be a very laid-back rally BUT we want you to bring your fishing poles, lounge chairs; mountain bikes; walking shoes and a fabulous sense of humor for lots of outdoor fun. For the firearm enthusiasts, there will be target, skeet and trap shooting ranges available for you to practice your skills.

Those who sign up will receive navigation instructions from the Griffiths. NOTE! The map pin on the ACI map is only for The City of Camden. Bent Oak is a privately owned farm and, for privacy reasons, we are not publishing the actual address online. Space is limited, so email Pat soon.

Holidays in Savannah

November 13 - 17

Come to Savannah! History, wildlife, birding, food and fun await! Join your hosts Lynn and Gary Talsma. There are many open campsites.

1. Make your reservation on the Georgia State Parks website: <https://gastateparks.org/SkidawayIsland>

Annual Membership Meeting Announcement

SECU will hold our annual Membership Meeting on November 2, 2024 at 10AM at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in Hiawassee, GA. We invite all members to attend, even if you aren't able to attend the rally that weekend. If you cannot attend, you can still participate by voting in the upcoming Election.

Upcoming Rally Reservation Window

Irene and Jerry O'Connell will be hosting a rally at Vogel State Park in Union County Georgia. The dates for this yet to be named rally are September 10th through September 13th **2025**.

The booking window, for Georgia residents, opens on July 10th 2024. For non-Georgia residents it opens a month later on August 10th 2024. This is a very popular park that fully books quickly for September.

It appears that Jerry will be able to hold a certain number of spots, for a short time, to enable those attending to group somewhat close to each other.

It's a way off but if we want this to happen we need to reserve very soon. Let Jerry know (ijbandits@gmail.com) when you are successful with a reservation.

Remaining 2024 SECU Rally Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Host
Sept. 3 - 8	Alumapalooza	Jackson Center, OH	Brett Greiveldinger
Sept. 11-15	Apple Pickin' Time	Fort Mountain St. Park, GA	Jerry O'Connell
Oct 31 - Nov 3	Falluminum	GA Mountain Fairground	Ron and Brenda Kaes
Nov 7-10	Bent Oak Farm Rally	Camden, SC	Pat/Wayne Griffith
Nov 13-17	Holidays in Savannah	Skidaway Island State Park	Gary and Lynn Talsma