

Carolina Drifters Newsletter – May 2024

Pine Ridge Campground, Roebuck, SC May 2-5

The 8 rigs that joined us this past weekend included: Barbara & Gary Lyons, Betty & Don Elliott, Barb & Gregg Nicholas, Betsy & Mike Beaulieu, John & Linda Marano, Walter & Deborah Moore, Charles & Janet Goding and Rene & I. For those unable to attend, you were affectionately missed and we hope to see you at a camp out soon.

**Thursday** – After arriving and getting settled everyone met at Don & Betty’s palatial patio, complete with a wooden swing, a propane powered fire table and a perfect 250 degree view of the park, for light refreshments and snacks. Rachel Carnell joined us for a while Thursday evening and showed us her new ride; a beautiful 2024 Ford Maverick Hybrid in Atlas Blue Metallic. Don’t you just love that new car smell? I wonder who will have better gas mileage, Rachel or Greg Nicholas we wait to find out.

**Friday** – Rene & I went with Barbara & Greg Nicholas to help deliver a loom in Seneca. Others went and followed Mike & Betsy to the BMW Zentrum museum in Greer. Friday evening we all enjoyed a delicious pot luck dinner. Following dinner we had the 50/50 drawing and Betty’s number was called! I can’t remember how much \$\$\$ she won, but she was very happy and quickly pocketed the coveted loot saying that she’s never won before. Then we played a couple of games of Bingo and corn hole and just sat around visiting with each other.

**Saturday** – Seeing that the threat of rain was heavy in the air a few of us decided to go antiquing while a few others went to Walnut Grove Plantation. A few of us also visited Grey Rock Farms for those delicious strawberries. Linda Marano had brought some for desert Friday evening, and they were so good that most of us wanted to get our own baskets of strawberries to bring home. Farm fresh is 100% hands down better than store bought every day of the week!

Later on while walking to the pavilion with our dinner contributions, I could smell hot dogs cooking and quickly found Don and Gary tending to the grill. Barbara and Betty had already set up the food tables complete with hotdog buns and condiments. After dinner before we made ice-cream sundaes, we all dove into a not so harmonized rendition and sang ‘Happy Birthday’, to Betty, who celebrated her birthday on Sunday the 5th. We also learned that it was Barbara Borg’s birthday on Wednesday, May 1. Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating their special day in May.

Today was going to be special, the running of the 150<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Derby was scheduled to start in a few hours. To help celebrate, John Marano, brought over his laptop, and streamed the event for everyone to watch. He & Linda also brought over to the pavilion a bag of ice, a plastic bag entombed Craftsman hammer, a bottle of some amber looking liquid and another bottle containing a clear liquid along with a bag of green stuff. Rene was tasked with hammering the ice into crushed ice. They were going to make mint juleps for everyone. It’s the official drink of the Kentucky Derby dontcha know.

As John described it, “the drink is really easy to make, all you do is add 2 ounces of bourbon to some crushed ice and a little mint, add a little ‘simple’ syrup (still don’t know what that was) and garnish with

a mint leaf or two on top". Linda stated that she and John had "tested" and perfected the drinks over several hours before bringing the ingredients over. That drink will catch up to you, eventually.

The drink isn't famous for its contents; it's known worldwide for the actual container holding the beverage. Back in 1816 the first julep cup was awarded as a horse racing trophy. From then on, the mint julep was both highly sought after and associated with horse racing. Dating back to 1939, racetrack managers often sold the race glasses or cups as souvenirs because the original julep cups were being stolen. Thousands of people work monumental hours for months and oftentimes years organizing, training, outfitting and performing, and it all comes down to less than 5 minutes and just one trip around the track. It was quite the race, a three-nose photo finish!



First place, Mystik Dan, followed instantly by Sierra Leone, who clinched 2<sup>nd</sup> place a nose ahead of Forever Young, who finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was interesting to watch but, now the real fun was about to begin!!!

CALLING ALL CAROLINA DRIFTERS!... step up, step up and place your bets! Betty, set up a miniature 6-horse derby complete with jockeys on a nice green field of cardboard. It cost \$1 per bet, and each race had color-coordinated tickets. After everyone had placed their bets, Betty picked up the six-side die and tossed it onto the field, "5!" she called out and moved horse #5 one spot forward. Another toss of the die, "Two!" Betty exclaimed, and moved horse #2 forward one spot.

We were all getting excited as well as a bit vocal, each of us was shouting out for our horse's numbers to be called as Betty continued to roll that die and move the appropriate horse forward... one spot. Finally, a horse won and who ever had bet on it, went back to voting 'booth' to collect their winnings. Sometimes there was more than one winner, so they needed to split the pot. It was great hilarious fun and I can't imagine what we must have sounded like or what some of the other campers thought of our noise, all of us shouting two! Two! Two! Three! Four! Five! Five! Six! Come on six!, AUGH! ONE!, but it was abundantly clear that the group was having a really great time and we didn't want it to end.

A big shout out of *Thank You!* to Barbara Lyons and Betty Elliott, for making this weekend so much fun for all of us. We all had a terrific time and we applaud your efforts. Thank you Don and Gary for cooking

the hot dogs, Rene for supplying the 'sliding' corn hole boards w/working lights, Linda & John Marano, for the mint juleps and the use of your laptop for the race.

Until next we meet, safe travels, dry roads and warm easy breezes.

-Sam ☺

Secretary, Carolina Drifters

**Next campout:** The next camp out is scheduled for September 12 – 15, at Palmetto Cove, 521 Table Rock Road, Cleveland, SC 29635, call: 864-836-6221 to make your reservation. \*\*This is a special joint camp out with the Palmetto Winnebago Club.