

Carolina Drifters Newsletter – September 12 – 15, 2024

Joint Campout – Carolina Drifters & Palmetto Winnebago Club at Palmetto Cove, Cleveland, SC

In attendance for all the fun, included: Debbie & Walter Moore, and their son Lyle Moore, Betty & Don Elliott, Barbara & Gary Lyons, Betsy & Mike Beaulieu, Geri & Joe Galloway, Linda & John Marano, Carolyn & Wally Flack and Sam & Rene.



New Members: Let's give a warm Carolina Drifters welcome to our newest members who joined us for the weekend; Dottie & Tim Keppler, from Greenwood, SC. They are friends of Rachel Carnell, who also lives near the Greenwood area. It was great getting to know them as we were parked beside each other for the rally. Tim is in the process of selling their coach as they would like to downsize into a shorter class A. Dottie says that their current coach is just too big for them now and they'd like something smaller. Welcome!

For those unable to attend, you were greatly missed and we hope to see you at the next camp out in October.

Most of us arrived *Thursday*, and were assisted to our spots by the wonderful campground host in his golf cart. After getting settled with pets walked, emptied and fed, we all gathered at the shelter for light refreshments and good conversation. As the sun set, Rene built us a wonderful fire to relax by. It was great seeing everyone and playing catch-up after the long and hot summer. Everyone seemed happy to be camping in their rigs once again.



Debbie & Walter Moore have their son, Lyle visiting from Copenhagen Denmark, where he works as a contractor. It was nice visiting with them. Lyle although a bit taller, is an exact replica of his father and if he were to dye his hair gray, they could pass as twins IMHO.

Gary, brought our new lanyards to pass out and collected the money for our treasurer, Barbara Borg, who is currently on an RV adventure. Badges R Us did a great job in getting these done and back to us in record time. Thank you Barbara & Gary for working on that for the club. You guys ROCK!



Friday morning found most of us carpooling to the tea plantation just down the road. John Marano, had made reservations for our group to take a tour of the tea plantation, take a trolley ride around the plantation, learn how to grow the tea plants and partake in various tea samples. The plantation is run by a family of 12; 5 girls and 5 boys all helping their parents to plant the tea and pick the tea leaves as well as other assorted jobs order to benefit from the teas' teas' harvest each year.

Due to the number of plants required, the family also hosts many volunteer groups to assist with the work. Aside from tea, the family also makes and sells a variety of soaps, candles, lip balm and other useful household items.

It was a wonderful experience and I learned quite a bit about how to grow and harvest tea. I'm actually a coffee fan, but I did purchase the Walhalla blend of teas, and I look forward to brewing some in my favorite mug.

Friday dinner plans included a pot luck with an Italian theme. Barbara and Betty worked very hard on the decorations; the tables were so attractive! While Barbara collected the vines, cork lights, table cloths and plastic fruit, Betty was busy emptying the wine bottles and enjoying the fruity liquids. Don proudly claimed that he was the person who enjoyed the vodka bottle.



After dinner we had some intense moments with everyone checking and re-checking their tickets for that winning number in our 50/50 raffle. No one came forward at first, finally someone said that we had a winner. Wally & Carolyn Flack were the lucky winners of 50/50 raffle winning \$37! This was my only picture of Wally and no matter how hard I tried, I could never get a picture of the front of him, he kept turning away for some reason. Congratulations Wally & Carolyn!



A very special Thank You to Carolyn Flack for knitting and passing out her “Worry Worms” complete with a bible passage and bouncy eyes. The gesture was very sweet and it helps to remind all of us that we need to slow down and take stock in our personal lives. That we need to stop worrying so much about everything we cannot control, and just let the good Lord do his work.



After dinner was cleaned up and left overs put away, we played Bingo with the sliding Bingo cards that Barbara found online. Afterward, we gathered at the shelter to conclude a wonderful day with full bellies, an amazing fire in the pit and comfortable rocking chairs to relax us. Rene wanted ice-cream. I must remember to put ice-cream in the freezer because Don would not share.

The Carolina Gamecocks football game was on many campers minds, and John Marano got his outside TV working to play the game before the scheduled noon kick-off time. Hey Joe!, wasn't that an orange and purple Clemson Tigers T-shirt I saw you modeling in front of the mirror in your coach just yesterday? The maroon and black one looks good on you too. (hope you know I'm just teasing you) 😊

Saturday morning found us back in the hospitality room and Geri Galloway opening the Palmetto Winnebago Club's business meeting. The meeting didn't last long and soon we were all free to go about doing whatever struck our fancy.

Wally & Carolyn Flack have a new addition to their family. His name is Rocky, and he is a real sweet, super excitable 7-month old Dachshund. Rene and I had the great fortune of camping on the other side of Wally & Carolyn, and learned about Rocky first hand. Carolyn says that he's really friendly and he gets excited by all the attention everybody gives him. His way of releasing (literally) all that excitement is that his bladder lets go... full force, so beware she tells me as Rocky moves from his side onto his back, demanding that I pet his upturned belly. Here is Geri trying to adopt another four-legged friend. This picture is definitely going to make somebody super jealous! Rocky is looking at the controls like he's saying, "Hey Geri, hit the gas!, let's go for a ride!" (I wonder if he peed on Geri and her scooter?)



Dinner wasn't scheduled until 5:30, so we had plenty of free time. Some folks went venturing to the apple orchards, while some sat and read books, others visited, some took naps and some went site seeing in Greer. I promised Barbara

and Betty that I'd be back by 3:00 to help prepare the potatoes. Saturday night's dinner theme was 'Baked Potatoes and All Their Fixings'. We had a total of 32 potatoes. Once washed, dried, speared/poked/knifed and rolled in tinfoil, into the oven they went at 350 degrees for at least 2 hours. It was later determined that we needed to bump the temp to 375 for an additional hour due to the amount of spuds. "the fixings" included: sour cream, chives, bacon bits, an assortment of butter, fake butter and margarine (the debate continues!), a variety of cheeses and fruit. Everyone seemed to be quite content in their personal element while slathering their potatoes with their favorite type of spreadable stuff. I though the idea of baked potatoes was ingenious, so simple yet elaborate whatever your preferred method of preparing your potato, everyone was satisfied.

After dinner, Rene and Don got situated to receive betting money and distribute the car tickets. **DRIVERS START YOUR ENGINES!!!!!!**



Similar to the horse race that we played, this version uses Hot Wheel Cars to move forward through the field. The cars were numbered 1 thru 6. There would be 6 races total. You placed your bets by buying \$1.00 tickets for the car number of your choice. Betty would roll the dice, and depending how the dice rolled, that number car moved forward -1- spot on the green motorway. Participants were getting excited with each roll of the dice, calling and yelling out their cars number before those pearly whites left Betty's hand. I won one then lost one then won again twice and then lost twice. When all the racing was said and done I was up \$5.00, not too bad for this gambling gal. Come on #3! Once again, I believe that Wally was the night's big winner. He never did tell me how much he won in total, I just wanted to share the good news with Carolyn!



After all that excitement we still were not done for the weekend. We had Betsy & Mike Beaulieu's daughter arriving to entertain us with her Hula Hoops for all to enjoy. Next time she will bring her fire rings! Now that will be exciting!!! I'll keep the fire extinguisher handy.



I obviously could use the extra practice on these wheel like creatures. I neither have the time to devote nor the desire to do so, but it was fun reminiscing back when we were kids using these devices. I'd like to see Mike Beaulieu, give the Hula Hoops a try. I bet he can do them almost as good as Betsy, but I caught him hiding behind Geri as she was trying to adopt Rocky.



After trying to figure out how to do the Hula Hoop, Betsy and I played Corn Hole for a bit, then mozied over to the fire to enjoy the ambiance and good company. *Sunday* morning arrived way too soon, and we found ourselves saying our good-byes and hitting the road before 10 AM.

I'd like to say a big THANK YOU to Barbara Lyons, Betty Elliott, and Geri Galloway for all their planning and hard work at making this year's rally a fun filled event that will be remembered and emulated in times to come. Your on-going

generosity, enthusiasm and creativity continue to be a strength both of these clubs rely on for long-term success. Thank you ladies, I applaud your efforts.

- The next campout is scheduled for October 3 – 6, 2024, at Palmetto Shores RV Resort, Summerton, SC. Reservations needed to be made by January 4, 2024, but if you don't have a reservation call them at 803-478-6336 to see if they have a spot for you
- The last campout of the 2024 season will be December 5 – 8, at the Barnyard RV Park, Lexington, SC. They can be reached at 803-957-1238. Be sure to tell them that you are with The Carolina Drifters

After going through all the pictures I took, I realized that there were a few people I neglected to get. So be warned the next campout I will be taking your picture!

Until our paths cross again, may you always have dry roads beneath your tires and sunny skies to light your way.

Sam (Renee) Bollengier

Secretary, The Carolina Drifters