



Foothills Travelers Newsletter, June 2026

June 29, 2026

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Hello, Foothills Travelers!

This newsletter has several topics of importance so please take the time to read it thoroughly and let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. As always, if you have information that you would like to share with fellow chapter members please let me know and I'll include it in the next Newsletter or another chapter communication.

Upcoming Rallies and Travel:

- July 1-4, FRVA's 113th International Convention and Expo in Sedalia, Missouri
- August 23-29, Old Mill Stream Campground at Dutch Wonderland, Lancaster, PA and the Pennsylvania Dutch Country
- October 6-9, Palmetto Cove, Cleveland, SC
- March 9-12, 2027, Creekfire RV Resort, Savannah, GA **NEW!!**

July 1-4, FRVA's 113th International Convention and Expo in Sedalia, Missouri is just around the corner and it's not too late to register. I'm sure there will be a great Fourth of July celebration and it should be very exciting. Mike and Kathy Keith will be attending and as Foothills Travelers' National Director, Mike will be representing Foothills Travelers at the FRVA Governing Board Meeting on June 30th. I'm not sure how many of our members know what Mike's duties are, so let me provide a very brief description: ***The National Director is to always represent the best interests of the entire FRVA membership. National Directors are responsible for the policy making of the organization and are responsible for the administration of those policies. One of the main duties of National Directors is to keep their chapters informed of items pertaining to the National Organization and of the areas, as well as keeping the National Organization apprised of items happening on the chapter level. Another important duty is participation in and voting during Governing Board meetings.*** Simply stated, Mike is Foothills Travelers' eyes and ears at the Governing Board Meeting and I'm sure he will let us know what's going on in FRVA National when he returns. Let's all thank Mike for his willingness to serve in this important role!

August 23-29, Old Mill Stream Campground at Dutch Wonderland, Lancaster, PA and the Pennsylvania Dutch Country. Jerry Sneed will be coordinating travel to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Dutch Country. This trip is technically not a chapter rally because there is no rally fee involved and expenses for all activities will be the responsibility of each member, but it is a trip to be remembered! Activities include an amazing show at the Sight and Sound Theater where we will see a live on-stage production of *Joshua* and is always one of the highlights of the trip. Participants will spend time with the Amish family of Jake and Ruth Stoltzfus and their children and see up close how our Amish friends work and live. There are tons of other things to do like visiting the Railroad Museums, Green Dragon Farmers Market & Auction, and lots of unique restaurants and shops.

I can tell you that this trip was one of the most enjoyable that Jacky and I have ever made in our RV travels. Time is of the essence so if interested, contact Jerry Sneed directly at 704-482-4739.

October 6-9, Palmetto Cove, Cleveland, SC. This rally will be hosted by Larry and Patt Lawson and will also be Foothills Travelers' fall business meeting. For those that haven't been to Palmetto Cove, it's probably the least expensive yet most beautiful campground you'll find and it also boasts some of the best views. Call Palmetto Cove now at 864-836-6221 to book your reservation and be sure to mention you're with the Foothills Travelers rally. NOTE!! Do not book through the Palmetto Cove website! Additional details will be forthcoming.

March 9-12, 2027, Creekfire RV Resort, Savannah, GA This is advanced notice of our newest rally that is still in the very early planning stages. Hosted by Daryl and Rose Cook, this rally promises to be a great one at a beautiful resort campground in one of the most beautiful cities in the south. You will notice that this rally is scheduled for the week before FRVA's International Rally in Perry, GA on March 17-20, 2027. We suspect many folks will stay a little longer in Savannah or arrive in Perry a few days early. Book your reservations now by contacting Creekfire RV Resort at 912-897-2855 and be sure to mention the Foothills Travelers rally. Rose and Daryl will be following up with additional information as it becomes available but be sure to put these dates on your calendars now!

Recent Rallies

May 13-16, 2026, Sevierville, TN, INTO the Smokies, International Area Rally, The Ridge Outdoor Resort: This was a wonderful rally in an area we all like, Sevierville, Pigeon Forge, and Gatlinburg, TN. INTO the Smokies was the International Area's equivalent of the Eastern Area's GEAR Rally. Visitors are always welcome and the International Area's members are every bit as friendly and welcoming as we are.

Foothills Travelers participating in this rally were:

- Bob and Barbara Hall
- Dwellion and Jacky Howard

The Halls and Howards had a wonderful time and I can say the weather was almost perfect! The schedule was very busy as we participated in numerous seminars, attended the Array Variety Show at Mountain of Entertainment Theater, visited Dolly Parton's Stampede for dinner and a show and went on a Redneck Comedy Bus Tour to Gatlinburg and surrounding areas. On our final evening, entertainment was provided by entertainer Kenny Evans. Evans, sang golden oldies, country, gospel, and a wide variety of tunes we all grew up with. Kenny's voice is amazing and he has amazing vocal range. Just for kicks, [click here and listen to his rendition of](#)

[Sherry Baby](#). Kenny is also an ordained minister who shares his amazing testimony. [Click here for Foothills Travelers Photos and select the folder '2026-05 INTO Rally-Sevierville.'](#)

June 16-19, 2026, Mount Airy, NC, Mayberry Campground: While the rally officially started on the 16th, many Foothills Travelers arrived on the 15th. We had a tremendous turnout and everyone had a blast. Attending were:

- Eleanor Allen
- James and Robin Berliner
- Rodney and Jane Block
- Tom and Beth Boswell, **visiting**
- Daryl and Rose Cook
- Hosts Mike and Kathy Keith
- Dwellion and Jacky Howard
- Tom and Annette Larson
- Larry and Patt Lawson
- Tommy and Brenda Loftin
- Caryl Mallory
- Ed and Beverly Magiera, **visiting**
- Jill Merrill, **visiting**
- Archie Moore and Lenni Lebron
- Tom and Terri Pennoni, **new at GEAR**
- Ralph and Debbie Stewart, **new members**
- Jerry Sneed and Sylvia Daves
- John Spears
- Rick and Chris Thayer, **new at GEAR**

As mentioned immediately above, attending were four members who joined Foothills Travelers at the GEAR Rally in Myrtle Beach last November and five folks who were visiting at this rally to determine if Foothills Travelers was the right match for them. I am pleased to announce that all of our visitors, Tom and Beth Boswell, Ed and Beverly Magiera, and Jill Merrill, decided to join Foothills Travelers during the rally!! It is exciting to know so many super friendly folks find Foothills Travelers a great match! Welcome to the chapter!! See the end of the Newsletter for pics of our newest members if you weren't present to greet them.

Also visiting with us and representing SkyMed was Susan Disch, who attended the full rally. That's 35 folks, the largest number of participants I can remember during my time as a Foothills Traveler! The great news is we had a BLAST! Mayberry Campground was very nice indeed and was very convenient to our activities in Mount Airy and surrounding areas. The weather was almost perfect until the last afternoon when we had to don raincoats and umbrellas. That was a small price to pay for the mostly beautiful weather!

Mike and Kathy did a wonderful job organizing this rally and, as usual, they were supported by many other members. Our schedule was full for sure. Did I say we had plenty to eat? At the campground we had dinners that included a baked potato bar, lots of salads, and scrumptious crazy deserts including everyone's favorite, ice cream! We had breakfasts that included eggs prepared by our world-renowned Foothills Travelers egg chef, Daryl Cook, lots of sausage and bacon, pancakes, and tons of muffins, yogurts, fruits, etc.. Susan from SkyMed also provided a Cracker Barrel breakfast including eggs, more sausage, and even more bacon, before her presentation of SkyMed's insurance program. Our final dinner was at The Depot at Cody Creek. Folks, if anyone left hungry, it was their own fault!!

Activities included a tour and wine tasting at Shelton's Winery, a trolly tour of Mount Airy and local attractions, and plenty of time to explore on our own. We also played Bingo with prizes and had a 50/50 drawing that raised \$142. Eleanor won the 50/50 and pocketed \$72.50! We also had numerous raffles with members taking home an assortment of prizes and merchandise. [Click here for Foothills Travelers Photos and select the folder '2026-06 FT Mount Airy Rally.'](#)

As we briefly discussed at the Mayberry Rally, chapter officers will be securing campgrounds for several future rallies and asking members to volunteer as hosts or co-hosts of those rallies. Remember, we are a camping club and we need to have rallies planned. The longer notice we can give a campground the more likely we will be to get reservations for everyone together. Please be willing and ready to help with our future rallies!

FRVA updated web sites. The update of FRVA's website and Member Portal are continuing to progress. As mentioned previously, the new Member Portal is up and running and I strongly encourage you to login and look around if you have not already done so. All members must have their own unique login ID which is now your email address. This portal will allow you to check and edit all your personal information with FRVA. During the summer, FRVA will launch its new public website which everyone, even the general public, will have access to. We have not seen a preview of the new website but I understand it will be much easier to navigate and find the information everyone needs. Stay tuned for this change. Just in case, I have attached instructions on how to login to the new Member Portal. Feel free to contact me if you have any issues signing in.

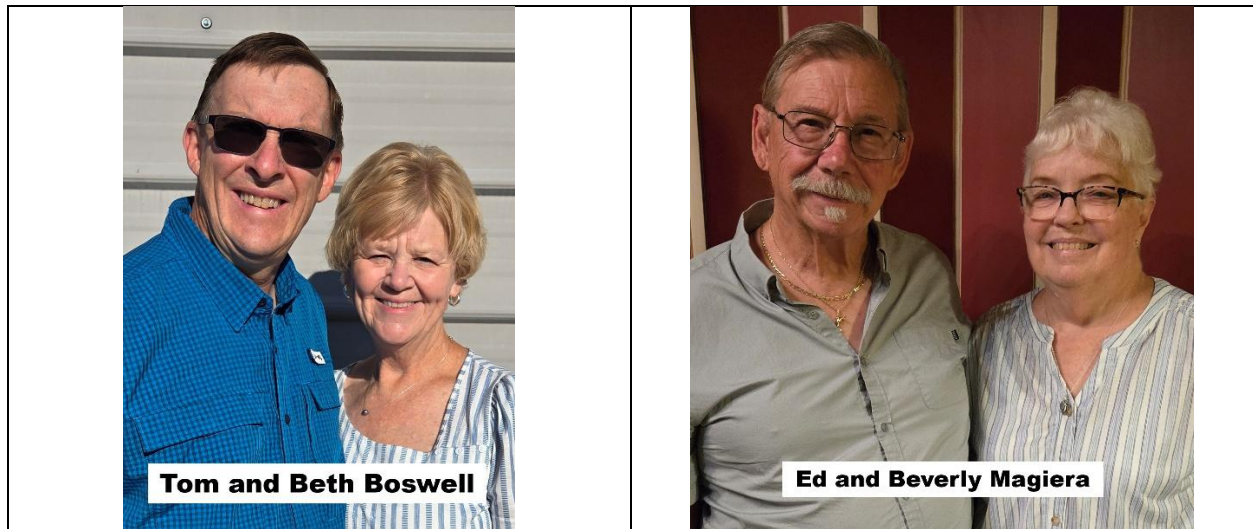
Remember, you can view all Foothills Travelers photos and shared documents by clicking here and selecting the folder you're interested in. Be sure to put future rallies on your calendars and contact the campgrounds for reservations soon. We know that many chapter members will be traveling to other destinations between now and our future rallies so please travel safe and enjoy our beautiful country. Again, a sincere thank you to everyone who helped during this rally and we look forward to seeing everyone again soon! May God bless you all greatly!

Respectfully,



Dwellion

Welcome Our Newest Members!

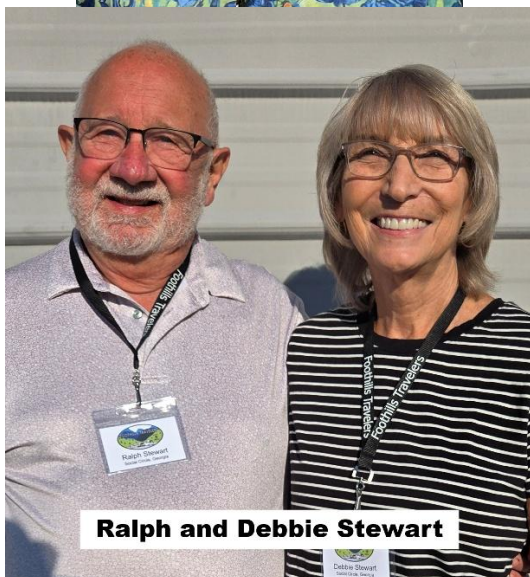




Jill Merrill



Tom and Terry Pennoni



Ralph and Debbie Stewart



Rick and Chris Thayer