

Foothills Travelers Newsletter, July 2025

Dwellion Howard, President
864-630-0563
ldwellionhoward@gmail.com

July 13, 2025

Hello, Foothills Travelers! I hope your summer has started out as a great one. 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. **This newsletter has several topics of importance so please take the time to read it through and let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.**

There's always lots going on in the FRVA Eastern Area and I first want to summarize a few topics from the most recent Eastern Area Executive Board Zoom Workshop:

- **Recruiting and Retention:** FRVA is rolling out a new process for outreach to new members and will be sharing it with the chapters soon. In 2023 – 2024 the Eastern Area lost 77 members, had one chapter dissolve, one chapter go inactive, and one chapter went inactive due to low membership. The good news is that year to date the Eastern Area has gained 56 members.
- **Flourish or Fail:** Because of our loss of members, we received a document titled Flourish or Fail which is intended to assist chapters in their recruitment efforts. As mentioned in my previous Newsletter, we absolutely must address some of these same issues to grow our chapter. I have attached this document for everyone's review.
- **GEAR 2025:** The GEAR Rally at Ocean Lakes Campground in Myrtle Beach is on November 5th through the 9th. If you have not already registered for this FRVA event please do so now. **FIRST**, you must call Ocean Lakes to reserve your campsite at 877-510-1413. Sites were limited so I hope some are still available. Once you have your campsite you must register for the rally at the FRVA website or by [CLICKING HERE](#). **To repeat, you must reserve your Ocean Lakes campsite FIRST, then register for the rally at the FRVA website.** We have determined that there are currently 260 FRVA members with either or both a campsite and registration. There are also 200 members who signed up for the Christmas show which is considered an excellent show.
- **GEAR 2025 special visitors:** Kevin 'Producerman' McCabe and his wife Patrice, both of the Discovery Channel show 'RV There Yet,' will attend GEAR 2025 in Myrtle Beach!
- **FRVA's 2026 International Convention:** FRVA's 2026 International Convention is scheduled for March 18th through the 21st, 2026 in Perry, GA, and this event will be hosted by members of the Eastern Area Chapters. Because of the huge efforts required to host the Perry event, the Eastern Area will not have a 2026 GEAR Rally.
- **Volunteers Needed:** The Eastern Area has a strong need for volunteers in the open positions of Vice President, Secretary, Central Area Vice President and Northern Area Vice President. The Tennessee Travelers Chapter has dissolved due to lack of officers. The Coaches for Christ-Eastern Chapter is inactive and the Colonial Virginians Chapter has advised 2026 is at question.
- **Websites:** Note that the Eastern Area's website is <https://www.frva-ea.com>.

- **FRVA Annual Meeting and National Elections:** 52% of FRVA Chapters will be represented by thirteen delegates at the FRVA Annual Meeting and National Elections.
- **Electronic/Absentee Voting for EAMA Elections:** A proposal has been presented for consideration of electronic voting. If approved, this should greatly assist the voting process.

The need for a new Foothills Travelers logo was mentioned in the last Newsletter and I provided an example. However, it has been suggested that we give every member the opportunity to share their thoughts and suggestions for a logo design that they feel would give our chapter a unique identifier. Therefore, please accept this message as a challenge to create a new design for our logo! Return your examples and ideas to me by August 2nd and I'll send all examples to chapter members for a vote. Let me know if you have any questions.

Finally, with each new Newsletter I'd like to share a Foothills Travelers member's story and photos about one of their recent camping trips. It could be an 'overnighter' or a multi-week trip, and we all know they are all good! Just send me a brief overview of where you went, what you did, where you ate, or any activities you experienced while on your trip. I'd also appreciate you sharing information about the campground where you stayed or the place you boondocked. Finally, photos will be icing on the cake. Don't worry, it doesn't have to be long or elaborate, just whatever you feel comfortable with. I'll add your comments and pics to the Newsletter.

As an example, I'll share about our first trip of the summer. We just completed our three-week trip to my hometown, Charleston. The first week was with our great grandkids, Grayson (9) and Chevelle (7). Unfortunately, our trip started off as poorly as any trip we've taken. Not long after leaving Greenville in the late evening as we neared the Clinton exit 52, we started smelling hot brakes from a vehicle in front of us, or so we thought. Then, the smoke alarm in the rear of the RV went off and scared the bejesus out of us! I also saw smoke from our rear wheels! I was able to pull off the freeway at the exit ramp and the smoke was billowing from the rear of the RV because the rear brakes were locking up. We eventually crept to the top of the ramp and parked at a Waffle House with a truck parking lot. The next morning, we found a mobile technician who came to us, diagnosed a defective rear brake relay valve as the problem, drove to Greenville for the parts, then returned and made the necessary repairs, all in the parking lot. Kurt Kellett of Kellett and Sons Truck Parts was our hero that day and did an outstanding job. We highly recommend their services if ever needed. They are in Laurens, SC, 864-683-2388.



On to Charleston we go! However, just before arriving in greater Charleston that evening, I received a right rear inner tire low air pressure alarm but was able to make it to James Island County Park Campground. For the next few days, we took the kiddos on their first trip to the beach, to the waterpark at the campground, and several other activities including long bike rides at the JICP. I know many of you have stayed at James Island County Park Campground but if not, you really should. There number is 843-795-4386 and their website is <https://ccprc.com/1729/Camping-Lodging>.



As we prepared to take the kiddos home, we had to have the tire repaired or replaced. I was worried that I would have to replace a \$500 tire but the folks at Frasier Tire in Charleston found a damaged seal on the valve stem which was most likely damaged when the brakes overheated the wheel. It was less than \$100 for the tire repair and we're on to my brother's property in Saint Stephen, SC where, lucky for us, he has an RV space with full hookups. We got set up and the kids had a blast riding the property with Uncle Preston on the golf cart and four-wheeler. The next morning, we took the little ones back to Greenville in the truck then returned to St. Stephen where we spent an uneventful and very restful week.



Our third and final week was once again spent at James Island County Park Campground where we met up with our grandson Nolan and his girlfriend, Megan. Since these kids were older, they had their own agenda for the week, but they did allow us to tag along to the beach, the Confederate submarine Hunley Museum, dinners in the evening and lots of bike rides. We're proud of these kids and enjoyed our time with them.





Wishing everyone a great summer!

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