



Foothills Travelers Newsletter, August 2025

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Hello, Foothills Travelers!

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. 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.

As communicated previously, Mike Smalley's logo was voted as our new chapter logo with 60.6% of all votes. Congratulations to Mike for the winning design! I already have one garden flag design to show everyone at the Palmetto Cove Rally and your thoughts on other uses is greatly desired. Looks nice above, doesn't it?

I'll first summarize a few topics from the most recent Eastern Area Executive Board Zoom Workshop:

- **Recruiting and Retention:** You are most likely aware that we already contact new FRVA members who live in our area to welcome them to FRVA and introduce our chapter, via email and sometimes postal mail. FRVA now recommends all chapters begin following up via telephone as well. They are also creating a call script to help gather specific information needed from the new members. I will take on the responsibility of calling new members in our area and will likely ask others to participate in this task going forward. We will continue the email and mail and I'll make that call to the new members approximately one week after the Welcome emails are sent.
- **Area and Chapter Elections:** The Eastern Area and chapters can function only when we have volunteers willing to fill open officer positions. Most chapters currently have open officer seats and we are no different. Eleanor has advised that she will not be running nor will she accept nominations for the Secretary Treasurer officer's position for 2026 and 2027 so we will need someone to volunteer as her replacement. Saunie and I will work in our positions through 2026. So far in 2025 FRVA has lost about 30 chapters due to a lack of officer volunteers and I don't want our chapter to follow that path. We will discuss this more at Palmetto Cove but **PLEASE** consider volunteering for this opening.
- **FRVA Annual Meeting and National Elections:** The Annual Meeting and National elections have been completed and we should know the results as well as have access to the meeting minutes in the next few months. You can access this information and so much more on the FRVA web site under [Governing Board Announcements & Mailings](#).

- **GEAR 2025 Update:** Registration for GEAR 2025 at Ocean Lakes Campground in Myrtle Beach has been stronger than expected and it looks like registration will be closed on Monday, August 25th. If you don't register for the event tonight you can register and be placed on a 'waitlist.' For almost every event there are people who must cancel their registration for any number of reasons so there will be space that become available. However, we won't know until it happens. There is a full slate of merchandise vendors, seminars, etc. and we all look forward to it. If you have registered to attend GEAR but are NOT camping at Ocean Lakes you must let me know ASAP so a parking pass can be arranged for you to attend the daily events.
- **FRVA's 112th International Convention:** Our 112th International Convention and RV Expo (Changes in Latitudes, RV Beach Party) will again be in Perry, GA on March 18th through the 21st. Registration is now open online on the FRVA website or by calling 800-543-3622. Members Mike and Kathy Keith have already registered but advised there were some problems with the website last week so they had to place the call. I looked online yesterday and the website said that due to technical problems, the Partial Payment Plan is not available to those registering online which simply means if you register online, you must pay the full registration fee vs. paying a deposit now then the balance in late January 2026. I don't know about you but I'd rather keep my money in my pocket so I'll be calling tomorrow. Remember, full-service sites are limited so if that's your preference, **REGISTER NOW!** Full details are available on the [FRVA website](#).
- **Future Changes to the FRVA Login Process:** Currently we all sign-in to the FRVA website using the name we created when we first registered. However, as FRVA updates the website, our log-in names will change to our email addresses. I see this as no big deal but there may be those that do not use email. FRVA is researching the possibility of alternatives for those folks but just be aware. If they don't use email, they won't be seeing this message anyway! 😊

Also:

- **Palmetto Cove Rally, September 24th – 28th:** It's just around the corner and we are looking forward to seeing everyone. Jacky has created an itinerary for this rally which I have attached as a separate document. Please review it and reply to her as requested. The fee for this rally is **\$22 per person**. Please send a check at your first opportunity to Jacky Howard, 5 Crusoe Cove, Greer, SC 29651. If you have questions regarding the meals or activities you may contact Jacky directly at 864-430-1536. I can tell you that the Hagood Grist Mill Historic site is very interesting!
- **New Myrtle Beach Rally:** Jacky and I will be hosting a chapter rally in Myrtle Beach on April 7th through the 10th at Hideaway RV Resort, 101 Cypress RV Way, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588. This will be our first weekday rally and, since most of our members are retired, this should be no problem. I really don't have to describe Myrtle Beach to anyone because I think all of us have been there at some point. Hideaway is located right on the Intracoastal Waterway within sight of the Socastee swing bridge and has docks and a boat ramp right on the waterway. Hideaway is within minutes of just about any kind of dining you can imagine and of course, seafood galore! We will have the use of a large activity center if needed but we are not going to plan for any group meals at the campground so the ladies can have a much-deserved break! We have reserved a block of campsites near each other at a rate of just \$54.90 plus taxes per night. You may upgrade to a waterfront site for an extra charge or arrive earlier or stay later if desired. **You must contact Hideaway at 843-444-2119 by October 5th, 2025, to reserve one of these campsites.** You may book after October 5th at the same rate but they cannot guarantee one of the adjacent campsites or availability. Therefore, please reserve your campsite as soon as possible. **NOTE!! This Myrtle Beach rally replaces the April 2026 Clemson rally we discussed but couldn't book because we couldn't get a host for it.**

Finally, Jacky and I met up with Mike and Kathy Keith in Myrtle Beach at Hideaway RV Resort in early August. The weather wasn't always our friend but the time we spent together more than made up for and rain. Besides, Mike and Kathy had to put some more miles on their new RV! We had a chance to spend some time on Pawley's Island which allowed Mike and Kathy to reminisce about their honeymoon there a few years ago and we had wonderful meals! Jacky and I didn't see Mike and Kathy for a while after that....not sure why. We spent time in Georgetown and it's National Historic Landmark District and had a wonderful meal! We walked almost three miles on the beach starting from near Spring Maid Pier and we had another great meal! Detect any trends yet? When it rained, we just hung out or played games. I remembered how much I like Chinese Checkers so don't be surprised if you see that one in the future! Overall, we had a great time!



Respectfully,

Dwellion