



Foothills Travelers Newsletter, October 2025

October 15, 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.

First, a summary of topics from the most recent Eastern Area Executive Board Zoom Workshop:

- **Eastern Area Elections:** The nominees for Eastern Area Officers are Brian Parnes for Sr. VP EA, Tina Parnes for EA Secretary, and Steve Raileneau for AVP Central Area. Their bios will be posted on the Eastern Area website to review at your leisure. Elections for these positions will be at the annual meeting in November at GEAR.
- **Recruiting and Retention:** RV There Yet of the Discovery Channel has been doing a great job making the public aware of and recruiting for FRVA, particularly in the younger demographics. FRVA is creating a new committee to concentrate on member retention and recruitment. Overall, current membership has dropped from approximately 50,000 to 48,600. Unfortunately, information regarding new members and expiring members has not been consistently received by chapter officers to assist in recruiting and retention. FRVA leadership is aware of this issue and expects our new computer system to resolve this issue. National representatives have begun attending larger RV rallies for the purpose of recruitment.
- **FRVA Annual Meeting:** FRVA will hold its annual meeting this year during GEAR 2025 in Myrtle Beach. There was also discussion about chapter representation when a chapter has a President but no National Director.
- **GEAR 2025 Update:** As of 09/18/25, there were 305 registrations with a waitlist. (NOTE! This info is dated and the writer is sure there are quite a few more registrations.) There are also 14 vendors who are on a waiting list! Building capacity is 700 therefore, capacity will be

monitored closely. Also, there are 130 reservations for the Ladies Luncheon with others on a waitlist. **Be aware that all GEAR materials will be picked up by registrants at WILL CALL located at the reservations desk.**

- **Perry Needs YOU!** Volunteers are still needed for two positions at the 2026 FRVA International Convention in Perry, March 18-21, 2026. These are for the Volunteer Coordinator and Seminar Chairperson.

It was announced at the September Palmetto Cove Rally that Eleanor Allen, our chapter Secretary/Treasurer, will not be serving beyond the end of the year. It was so disappointing to hear, but we want to extend our warm appreciation to Eleanor for all her work for the Foothills Travelers. The great news is that Kathy Keith volunteered to take on the responsibilities of Secretary/Treasurer, so we brought it up for a vote, which was approved by those present. We are so excited to have Kathy as a chapter officer and we look forward to her service!

Speaking of our September Palmetto Cove Rally, we had a great time with nice weather and some showers. We had 16 members in attendance (the Cooks, Crums, Howards, Keiths, Lawsons, Mierkes, Sneeds, and Smalleys) and had 4 other members (the Arledges and Perrys) attend dinner and our chapter meeting. As usual, the fellowship was wonderful, as was the food! Palmetto Cove had repaired all damage from last year's hurricane and the facility was great. I will share some photos from the rally below but be sure to click on the following link to see all the photos. [CLICK HERE FOR PHOTOS!!](#)

ATTENTION!! We now have another rally scheduled for summer 2026 with hosts Milke and Kathy Keith. The following is a note from Kathy about the rally:

Mayberry Foothills Travelers Rally

*Mike and Kathy Keith will be hosting a chapter rally at Mayberry Campground in Mt. Airy, NC on Tuesday June 16th through June 19th, 2026. We will have use of a covered shelter with tables. A block of campsites near the shelter and each other have been reserved at a rate of \$55 plus tax per night. You are welcome to come early and stay later based on availability. **You must contact Mayberry Campground at 336-789-6199 by Dec 1, 2025, to reserve one of these campsites.** You may book after Dec 1st but there is no guarantee your site will be adjacent to the rally group or available. Therefore, please reserve your campsite as soon as possible.*

[CLICK HERE](#) Mayberry Campground's website. Feel free to contact Kathy if you have any questions about this rally, (864) 525-4153 or kathykeith@charter.net.

We now have the following rallies scheduled for the remainder of this year and 2026:

- November 5-9, GEAR Rally, Ocean Lakes Campground, Myrtle Beach, SC
- March 18-21, 2026, FRVA's International Convention, GA National Fairgrounds, Perry GA
- April 7-10, Hideaway RV Resort, Myrtle Beach, SC
- June 16-19, Mayberry Campground, Mt. Airy, NC
- October 6-9, Palmetto Cove, Cleveland, SC

This is a great start to our rally schedule for 2026 but it's important to schedule your rally well into the future to ensure campsites and time are available for planning. It's also important to book your campsite as soon as we are notified of a new rally so that the hosts have plenty of time to prepare. Currently, we have four coaches with reservations for our April Rally at

Hideaway RV Resort in Myrtle Beach. I hope we end up with quite a few more, but now's the time to make your plans to be there.

Finally, I'll be sending a copy of the Minutes from our Fall Business Meeting in a separate email.

Remember, if you have other trips planned, we would love to share your story and a few pics with fellow chapter members. Wishing everyone safe travels!

Dwellion





