



Foothills Travelers Newsletter, February 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.

Annual Dues

If you haven't renewed your Foothills Travelers membership (and you know who you are 😊), our membership dues are just \$15 annually, and they were due by January 31st, 2026. Please make your check payable to Foothills Travelers and mail it today to our Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Keith, 41 Wild Cherry Circle, Lyman, SC 29365. Your dues help keep our costs down and support the club's operations. For everyone who has paid, THANKS!!!!

Business Meeting

Our first Business Meeting of 2026 is scheduled for the April rally in Myrtle Beach at Hideaway RV Resort. Currently on the agenda are:

- Call to order
- Approval of the minutes from our September 2026 Business Meeting at Palmetto Cove
- Treasurer's Report and results from our Annual Financial Audit
- Discussion of old chapter business
- Increasing annual dues from \$15 to \$25.
- Discussion of previous and future rallies or restaurant meetings/luncheons
- Volunteers for nomination committee for President, Vice President, and National Director for 2027/2028 term.
- Discussion of other chapter business
- Adjourn Business Meeting

Upcoming Rallies for 2026

- March 18-21, FRVA's International Convention, GA National Fairgrounds, Perry GA
- April 7-10, Hideaway RV Resort, Myrtle Beach, SC
- May 13-16, INTO the Smokies, International Area Rally, Sevierville, TN, The Ridge Outdoor Resort
- June 16-19, Mayberry Campground, Mt. Airy, NC
- October 6-9, Palmetto Cove, Cleveland, SC

March 18-21, 2026, FRVA's 112th International Convention, GA National Fairgrounds, Perry GA: This big rally is just around the corner but it's not too late to register to attend. The Foothills Travelers will be well represented again this year and we have high hopes of adding new chapter members at the Chapter Fair which is scheduled for Tuesday the 17th immediately following the First Timers/New Members Orientation. If you've never attended this huge annual rally, it's really something to see and experience. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call or [visit the FRVA website for more details and to register by clicking here.](#)

April 7-10, 2026, Myrtle Beach, Hideaway RV Resort: Jacky and I will be hosting our chapter rally in Myrtle Beach on April 7th through the 10th at Hideaway RV Resort, 101 Cypress RV Way, Myrtle Beach, SC and this will be our chapter's first all weekday rally. 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! The rally rate for standard campsites is just \$54.90 plus taxes, per night, and upgraded waterfront sites *may* be available for an extra charge **You must contact Hideaway at 843-444-2119 to reserve your site.** Please reserve your campsite as soon as possible. [Click here for more information.](#)

May 13-16, 2026, Sevierville, TN, INTO the Smokies, International Area Rally, The Ridge Outdoor Resort: For those not familiar with the International Area, it is the largest FRVA Area, by virtue that it encompasses the entire continental United States with members who live all over the country. A majority of its members are off-roaders who live and breathe off-road vehicles like jeeps, 'goats' and other 4-wheel vehicles. That said, you do not have to be an off-road enthusiast to participate in an INTO Rally. As a matter of fact, Jacky and I will be attending this rally and know it will be a great one. This rally will have what most rallies have including organized functions and activities, meals, shows, as well as off-road activities for folks who do that kind of thing. We are expecting to have a great time at this rally and are quite sure you would to. After all, it's in Sevierville and near Gatlinburg, Maggie Valley, and Pigeon Forge. [Click here for additional information.](#)

June 16-19, 2026, Mount Airy, NC, Mayberry Campground: This is a beautiful campground and will be a relief from the summer heat. Please contact the campground and book your registration and be sure to mention you are with the Foothills Travelers for the rally rate. Our campsites are at the very top of this campground and it's a hike if you don't book one of the sites that have been reserved for the Foothills Travelers. Following is the original post: *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](#) for Mayberry Campground's website. Feel free to contact Kathy if you have any questions about this rally, (864) 525-4153 or kathykeith@charter.net.

October 6-9, 2026, Cleveland, SC, Palmetto Cove Campground: This rally will be hosted by Larry and Patt Lawson and it's been rumored that we may have another chapter joining us at the rally. Either way, it will be fun as usual. This rally will also be a Foothills Travelers business meeting. For those that haven't been to Palmetto Cove previously it's probably the least expensive campground you'll find with some of the best views. Palmetto Cove is currently closed for the season but will reopen on April 1st. I'll make a note to remind everyone to make their reservations after that time. Once open, call them at 864-836-6221.

Future Rallies Have you decided where you will be hosting a rally later this year or in 2027? At least one other nearby FRVA Chapter has rallies scheduled for much of 2027. If you haven't hosted a rally yet it's much easier than you might think. You can also cohost rallies with other chapter members. Just ask a fellow member who has hosted rallies previously and they'll let you know all about it. We also have lots of information on rally planning. As always, feel free to reach out to Jacky or myself and we'll help you with what you need to know.

GEAR 2026? Remember, we will not have a GEAR in 2026 because the East Area will be hosting the 2026 FRVA International Rally in Perry, Georgia. Our next GEAR is in 2027 at WV State Fairgrounds.

FRVA Data Management System Update (FRVA Website); Well, things are progressing with the update of the FRVA website but it's been very slow going with numerous problems. However, by now everyone should have received an email regarding their new login information and instructions on how to log in with your email address and creating your new password. If you login to the new website and don't see what you're looking for just click the Family RV Association logo on the top left of the page and it will take you to what looks like, and probably is, the old website. I'm under the impression that when the transition is complete, everything will have the same 'new look' as the login and Member Dashboard.

The 2026 Greenville RV Show. The 2026 Greenville RV Show was January 8-11 at the Greenville Convention Center. Members of the Foothills Travelers and Over the Mountain Chapters represented FRVA at the show and spoke to many show visitors over the four-day event. FRVA has been participating in large market RV shows (Atlanta, Hershey, Tampa, etc.) for years but few smaller market shows. So, these two chapters participated in a pilot to determine how effective we could be in recruiting new members for FRVA and our chapters at a smaller market show. From the interactions I witnessed I believe we were quite effective in doing so. Of course, there were learning experiences and our actual effectiveness has been difficult to measure, especially since the FRVA web site has been transitioning. We typically receive monthly reports of new FRVA Members at the beginning of every month but those reports have also been on hold since the beginning of the web site transition. Hopefully, those reports will restart soon and we will be able to see data that confirms how effective we were in recruiting new members. Participating in the show were Jane and Rodney Block, Caryl Mallory, Tom and Robbi Perry, and Jacky and myself. From the Over the Mountain Chapter was Jerry Cheek and Donna Orford, Brian and Tina Parnes, and Keith and Nancy Pierce. Also volunteering was the FRVA Eastern Areas President, Gary Lyons. Thanks again to those members who volunteered their time and effort to the growth of FRVA and these two chapters.

Just a few updates on what's been happening since the New Year. On February 13 the Foothills Travelers had a wonderful chapter luncheon in Greenville, SC at Stax Omega Diner and it was very well attended! Twenty-one Foothills Travelers attended and we had a wonderful time talking about anything and everything! We always have a great meal at Stax Omega and they take care of us but we will do our best to find a restaurant with a private room for the next time we have a chapter luncheon. Thanks to everyone who attended, with a special shoutout to our members who traveled the farthest, Greg and Saunie Hall from Parkton, NC (Fayetteville). The Halls spent the night at the world-renowned Howard Hotel and Spa in nearby Greer, SC!

Finally, while most members have their RVs winterized there were a few of us who traveled to what is supposed to be a warmer climate in January and February, Florida. But I'll tell you now that while we didn't have to deal with the snow and ice, we couldn't outrun the cold weather. For example, Jacky and I spent time in both Tampa/Lakeland and St. Augustine where days ranged from balmy highs in the 80s to chilling below average temps in the 20s!

Stay warm, my friends, and I hope to see everyone at one of the upcoming rallies!

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[Click here for larger images](#)