



AH-000-GAH

October 2011

Great Smoky Mountains

by Lo Arnold

On Friday morning we met for our Fall Overnight Tour to Bryson City Tennessee. The weather was very gloomy with occasional drizzle and very cloudy skies. We traveled to Middlesboro where we took the tunnel to a stop in Cumberland Gap TN for lunch at Webb's Restaurant. While waiting for our meal I noticed a picture and tribute to Loretta Lynn on the wall. Of course this prompted me to ask if they were relatives and the answer was "distant"

After lunch we made a quick stop at the Veteran's overlook on Clinch Mountain—a favorite stop as the view is wonderful. We then traveled on 25E and picked up the interstate to head over the mountains to Maggie Valley. As we crested the mountains under overcast skies, the sun suddenly was shining and there was a total change in the weather. We exited to Maggie Valley and discovered we were there during the weekend of a very large Bike Rally. There were bikers everywhere and of course the *Trail of the Dragon* was the big draw for many of them. We traveled on to Bryson City for a very quick rest before heading to dinner at the favorite Mexican Restaurant in the area. (Great food, ask Brad about his fish) After a long day it was back to the hotel for visiting and rest.



tubing on Deep Creek

By Mary Ann Szeluga

On Saturday morning the weather started out with bright blue skies and fog rising through the mountains which lead to a beautiful sunny day. We were at the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad (GSMR) by 9:30 am to pick up our tickets and await our 10:00 am boarding time. It was open seating in our train car so we wanted to get a good seat. Little did we know that once we got to the end of the line they had us switch sides with those across the aisle from us so we would have equally scenic views. Lo and Phil didn't take the train ride but they were there to photograph the group and see us off. Thanks!



The train was built in the 1880s. It took us on a four and a half hour excursion for 44 mile trip along the Little Tennessee and Nantahala Rivers, across Fontana Lake and into the Nantahala Gorge. Fontana Lake was like a windy river with 240 miles of shore line and up to 550 feet deep. We heard some of the history as we went along. Did you know the movie "The Fugitive" starring Harrison Ford and Tommy Lee Jones was filmed using this train depot and a train (not the one we road on)? It cost over one million dollars to film the train wreck in nearby Dillsboro. The wreckage is still there for people to go see.

The fun part for me was watching the rafters and kayakers on the river. They would shout and wave and so would we! We saw one man out of the raft trying to get back in it. There was a one hour stop at the

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Nantahala Outdoor Center where you could buy lunch (if you didn't eat on the train) or bring your lunch. Some of us sat on picnic tables by the river to watch the kayakers and rafters while we ate. Twenty-two Olympians have trained there and three are currently in training for their sport. It was so peaceful to sit and listen to the white water run over the rocks and see the ducks play. The birthday girl, Debbie Gresham, was treated by her husband, Bob, to a Crown Class car with a souvenir tumbler and all the sodas they could drink. We teased her about being in the champagne car! You could walk through the cars to the dining car or open air car as the weather cooperated in the high 70s. Not I, I could stand but not walk as the train moved. A fun ride ended with time to go through the RR Model Train Museum and enjoy the downtown.

We met in the lobby at 5:45pm to head to the Cherokee Casino for dinner at Paula Deen's kitchen for our 6:30pm reservations. Of course I steered everyone to the first exit off Route 74 and I should have said the 441 exit. Sorry about that! Stupid map didn't show another exit. Plus there was so much

construction when we were there in June that I didn't know that the Hotel entrance was the one we wanted not the Casino entrance. Sorry about the long walk. Don't follow me anymore! The food was great and the friendship even better. Bob earned more points with Debbie as he arranged for a birthday cake to be there (thanks to Lo and Phil). Debbie was quite surprised! Apparently the party continued back at the hotel and the manager was asked to quiet one of the rooms down so they moved to another room. We didn't know about it as Ray was busy watching the NASCAR race while I read. Sorry we missed it but we sure heard lots about it.

The worst part of the trip was the car trouble that Billie and Judy Bates had. He thought he was going to have a blow out with the slices he found on the tires so we slowed down and kept them in sight. They decided to leave Sat. morning and ended up having to be towed in Gatlinburg because the car needed a new coil. We all worried about them going home without us as escorts but they made it safely. So sorry you both missed the best part of the trip.

Great trip Ray & Mary Ann, thank you! (Lo)



President's Corner

Our Fall overnight trip to Bryson City was a fun trip for most of us. For Bill and Judi, it was a very long weekend. The three hundred mile run in the mountains can cause problems on the wear and tear on tires plus a bad engine coil. Through all that they still got back home okay. I think Bill and Judi are ready for a California run. Mark that up for another adventure for Bill and Judi.

Before we got home, I noticed a miss in the corvette so I called Paul Stewart of East Vine Radiator, who is a club member. He took time out of his work schedule to find my problem, which was a bad plug wire which I had overlooked. Thanks again, Paul.

Fall is here and it is a good time to enjoy the weather and the beauty of the blue grass country. Our next outing is October 22. Mark your calendars. Invite a friend to come along.

Joe and Joan have a new ride. It is a 1950 Ford. That was my first car. I hope to see it on our next tour.

Bob Jackson is still in the Samaritan Hospital having trouble breathing. It has been a rough road for Bob and Cherrie. Lets keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Hope to see you on our next tour. *Invite a friend.* *Charlie*

Saturday October 22 2011

Fall Tour to Warsaw KY

**Meet at McDonalds on Newtown Pike (at the interstate)
at 8:30 to leave by 9:00am.**

**We will travel mostly back roads to arrive in Warsaw for
lunch at Jewell's on Main at 12:00 noon. They are opening
early to accommodate us, so please thank them for doing so.**

**After lunch we may head to Shelbyville for dessert at the
Homemade Ice Cream & Pie Kitchen if there is interest in
doing this.**

Hope to see you for this great tour!!

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