

# Ozarks Prairie Sooners Rally

Carthage, MO

June 15 -18

The rally date was changed to midweek so our dads could spend time with their families on Father's Day. 😊

Big Red Barn RV Park in Carthage welcomed us throughout the day on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup>. At 4:00, we headed to King Jack Park in Webb City to view the Praying Hands and pick up a few things at the farmer's market. A potluck dinner and our business meeting followed at the Koooy home – Bob grilled burgers with sides brought by members. We had a nice relaxing evening with good company.



The Praying Hands statue was created by local artist Jack Dawson in 1972.

These large hands in prayer stand at 32 feet tall (on top of a 40-foot-tall man-made hill) and weigh a whopping 110 tons! At the base of the hands is a winding concrete slab inscribed with a simple message in photo above.

On Wednesday we stayed in Carthage and toured the Historic Phelps House, the Civil War Museum just off the square, and



enjoyed lunch at Woodshed Burger on Carthage Square inside Cherry's Art Emporium. Good food, good art - who could ask for more, but add good company and you have an A+ Lunch 😊



The civil war impacted so many areas, what part did Belle Star play? Visit the Civil War Museum in Carthage which is free (they do accept donations) to find out.

Our hosts gave us several options for the rest of the day - some toured the Precious Moments chapel and others checked out the Court House if they didn't take the tour on a previous trip.

We met back in the RV Park's clubhouse for a Chinese Catered dinner with games afterward (if you still had any energy).





On Thursday, George Washington Carver National Park/Museum was our 1<sup>st</sup> stop. Bob and I have lived in this area for 23 years and have never visited the park. 😞 I was surprised on how informative our guide was for the 3/4 mile walk around the grounds. The museum was an interesting account of Carver's life/accomplishments.



Lunch was served at the Under Cliff Bar and Grill. As the name indicates, the restaurant is built in the cliffs. It is a unique, popular place for some good food. We had our choice of a free afternoon or you could follow Bob and Candy to explore more of the Joplin area,



where we took a scenic drive to Redding Mill Bridge/walking trail, then off for a little ice cream at the Redding's Mill Train Depot. A short drive and we were at the Grand Fall's.



***The largest continuously running waterfall in Missouri.***

The natural falls are created by a ledge of solid chert rock that measures 163 feet across, and plunges 12 feet to a rock ledge creating a perfect picture spot. There are outcroppings of chert next to the falls that fill with water and create pools to explore, or discover frogs and other types of life in the water.

Our day ended with a catered dinner at the clubhouse from Boomer's BBQ that had us licking our lips and filling our bellies.

On Friday we had our Goodbye Breakfast at the clubhouse. Our hosts served sausage and egg casseroles, yogurt, homemade breads and fruit. The RV Park brought us homemade cinnamon rolls.

**A Big Thank You to our Hosts, the Summers and Hartjen's, for a rally full of fun!**

See you soon, Bob and Candy