

OPS October Campout  
10/4/2020 – 10/11/2020  
Fayetteville, AR

Thank you to Carroll & Evelyn Marbury for planning a fun-filled week of activities!



This was our first time at the new Hog Valley RV & Treehouse Resort. The owners were very accommodating and excited that we were the first group to use the newly built clubhouse. The week got off to a rocky start when Leonard tripped on a fuel



hose on his way to the rally, but after surgery on his broken arm, he rejoined the group for the rest of the week. Cal also had a health scare, so Sharon took Cal back to Tulsa for medical evaluations while Bob returned there coach home. Happy to report that both Leonard and Cal are doing well – Leonard continues PT on his arm/hand and Cal is enjoying friends in south Texas this winter. After some of us retrieved Leonard's coach from the Love's Travel Stop, we all enjoyed a delicious dinner in the club house catered by Smiley's BBQ.



Carroll started our evening off with a prayer and information on the plans for the week. He and Evelyn also brought a lot of goodies from their business that they gave away to those interested.



Monday was a free day but for those who enjoying biking, we had a nice morning on the Razorback Greenway which is a walking and biking trail that spans 36 miles from Fayetteville to Bella Vista AR. We enjoyed the scenery, fresh air and even some exercise. 😊



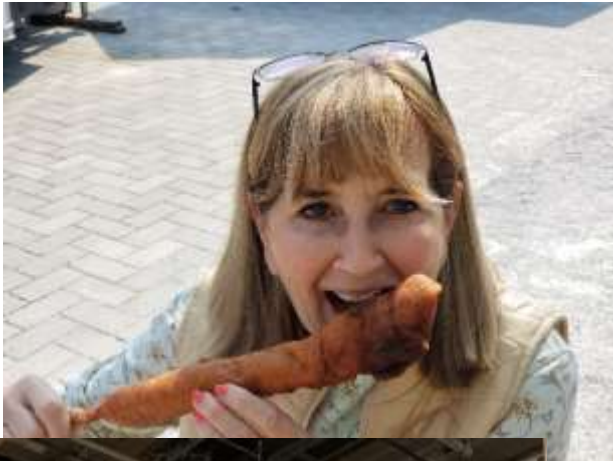
We completed our day at AQ Chicken House for dinner which opened in 1947. They serve a variety of southern fried meals. What does the AQ stand for you ask? Arkansas Quality



Lots of good comfort food filled our tables including fried mushrooms, pickles, onion rings, fried chicken, fish or good ole' chicken fried steak. Best of all was all the good company!



Tuesday morning started off with some of us getting our walks in to help work off all the calories consumed the night before. Then we were off to the 8<sup>th</sup> Street market - a community focused food hub where you have a choice of food trucks or restaurants. It was interesting walking around the area and choosing where you wanted to eat. Alice and Roger chose one of the food trucks. Since they weren't able to join us for the comfort food the previous night, she splurged on the deep-fried corny dog.



After lunch we toured The Momentary which is a contemporary visual and performing arts center.



The Daisy Air Gun Museum was on the list for the day for those who were interested in reliving their childhood BB gun days.

Pizza Dinner at Gusano's



As we continue with the amazing itinerary our hosts have set up for us on Wednesday, we head for the Peel Mansion Museum & Heritage Gardens.

Colonel Samuel West Peel was a business man and legal representative for the 5 civilized tribes in the Indian Territory, a confederate soldier and the first native born Arkansan to be elected to the U.S. Congress. He and his wife Mary Emaline Berry Peel raised 9 children here. He built this marvelous villa

tower Italianate mansion in 1875.





We then enjoyed lunch at Crystal Bridges followed by time to explore the museum and its grounds. So much talent on display here!



Dinner was at the campground's pavilion. We all brought a dish to share and our own meat that the BBQ masters (Bob and Chuck) cooked to perfection.



Our weather was perfect as Gary led us in prayer before a great meal and fabulous company.



Thursday was a free day or a biking day for those who had the energy after a full day of touring yesterday.



Looks like an ice cream stop was needed after all that exercise 😊



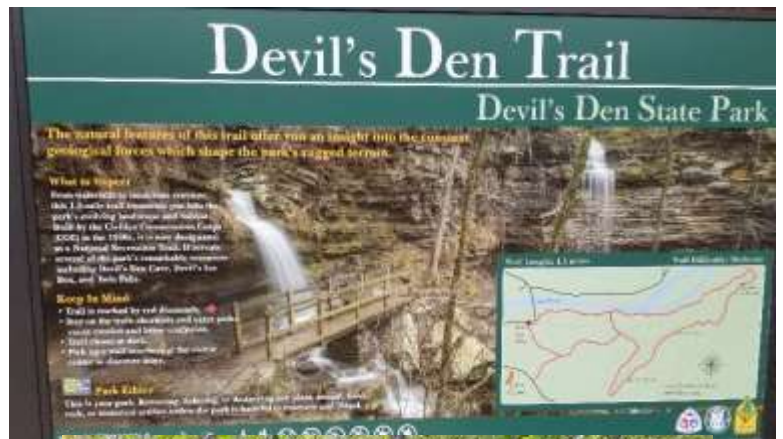
By Thursday afternoon most were back from their day's activities and we joined together for some corn hole and visiting in front of Rogers and Alice's. She brought out some candy corn and cashews to share which was a big hit.



Dinner at Catfish Hole



With Friday being a Free Day, there were several of us that drove to Devil's Den, a nearby State Park to check out the camping and hiking area. Most of the area was a pretty



easy hike, but I was glad to have my hiking stick in some areas.



was enjoying herself so much that she and I fell behind quite often, so our group got plenty of rest stops. 😊



We came across this dry riverbed of stacked rocks that are commonly known as Cairns. They can have a couple of meanings including to mark trails, but in this case the stacked rocks are in memory of loved ones.



Carroll and Evelyn opened their home to host a potluck dinner since they lived so close to the campground. (They have now sold this home, so really glad we got to enjoy it while we were there.) The backyard and fire pit were a perfect setting for our group.



A little coffee and visiting after a scrumptious meal.



Saturday morning, we started off the day with an oatmeal and continental breakfast followed by our last meeting of the year where we installed the new officers. A big thank you to all the officers who volunteered to serve - we couldn't have the club without you.



Tonights dinner was at Fred's Hickory House which opened in 1969. Alice was telling me they ate there often years ago but to order a drink, you had to be a club member since the county was dry. Luckily, that is no longer the case! They even made us our own menu.





We walked off our dinner while going through the North Forest Lights at Crystal Bridges. Music and light displays were choreographed beautifully. You could sing into a tree and the lights would coordinate with your voice. Here are a few of the art displays.



As I put together this final newsletter (almost a book ☺) for the year 2020, I realize how much I have enjoyed this group of awesome people, and the wonderful lifetime friends we have made these last few years. We all have such different lives and interests, but we share a love for camping, outdoors, friendships and a zest for life. We look forward to new adventures that will bring us together again in April so don't forget to make those reservations by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Yours truly,

Bob and Candy

A special thank you to those that sent me pictures to help make our newsletter.