

Fall Fest 2011
by Karla Dayhuff, ARC Secretary

Thomasville, GA, the City of Roses, was the location for this impromptu Fall Fest. Members of the ARC and RV Radio Net “checked-in” at the Sugar Mill RV Park off Hwy 19 between Thomasville and Ochlocknee. Co-Hosted by George (KG4IAM) and Anita Maitland; Jim “Jay” (W4PVN) and Shirley Starks, 10 Coaches were present on-site. John (W4CCQ) and Peggy Wilder came to spend two days with the group, staying at a Thomasville motel. Other attendees included: Bob (WB5MRG) and Lana Blackstock, Larry (N7LWD) and Karla Dayhuff, Jerry (K3IY) Floyd, Dean (KD4BB) and Bonnybel Harris, Jim (KC4FWS) and Barb Hughes, Jesse (WB4PPW) and Carol (WB4DZK) Knight, Russell (N9RUS) and Jackie (W9JKE) Thackery, and Temp (W4HZV) and Karen (W3KAT) Titus.

Many arrived on 10/19. On 10/20, a group of us headed out to the Visitor's Center and some of the Thomasville Historic sites, beginning with the Historic 1854 Wright House.

Described as an antebellum cottage, the Wright House is the earliest still-standing house in the Fletcherville Historic District. On the day we visited, the house was not opened and we were unable to see the inside.



Les (AA7YC) and Carole (KB7VWA) Wright's ears must have been burning when we took this photo of Jerry (K3IY) at “their house”.

Next, we went to see “The Big Oak”...



It's hard to believe this live oak tree started from a tiny acorn in about 1685. It now has a limb spread of 165 ft. and a trunk circumference of just over 26 feet. Photos don't do it justice. It is truly a mighty and majestic tree!



Following a late lunch at Applebee's, a few of us switched rides; some heading back to camp and others stopping at the Rose Gardens.



Although the Gardens were not in full bloom, there were several beautiful bushes and you could imagine how colorful this would be in the Spring and Summer months.

Dinner that evening was held at the Seminole Wind Seafood, Steak, and Country Buffet in Thomasville. Our large group had to divide up into 2 long tables for the restaurant to be able to accommodate us, but it was an enjoyable evening with lots of choices for salads, entrees, side dishes and, of course, desserts! The fun continued back at the club house with games.



Our 2nd day began late with 6 Members deciding to head South several miles to see Pebble Hills Plantation. The Main House was originally built in 1850.

All but the East Wing was destroyed by an accidental fire in 1934. The reconstruction was completed in 1936.

Elisabeth (Pansy) Ireland Poe, a sports woman and member of the Audobon Society inherited the Plantation from her Aunt in 1936. She wanted it preserved and opened to the public. The Main House is lavishly furnished with mural walls, art, sports trophies and memorabilia. The Elisabeth Ireland Poe Art Gallery is located upstairs.



To see more of this plantation and many inside photos, visit their website at: www.pebblehills.com. You will be able to enjoy the history, lots of photos (many of the rooms inside the Main House, and the Horse Stables and Courtyard. Those of us on tour were quite impressed with the “outbuildings and stables”.

Our evening meal on 10/21 was hosted by the Maitlands and Starks, featuring a spaghetti dinner, salad, and bread, with appetizers and desserts from the rest of the group. It was most delicious. Karla introduced “Rally Ho”; a trivial pursuit-type game where players move around the board to arrive at the Rally first. It has potential, but seemed slow moving when a player gets “stuck” in one category before able to moving on.

On the final full day of the event, some went shopping, some stayed back at the RV Park and relaxed and worked on projects in their Coaches. The Clubhouse's covered porch contained rocking chairs and swinging benches, a very nice place to relax and visit. We had a Hot Dog and Chili dinner with lots of sides, condiments, and desserts. Mexican Train became the “game of the night”.

Sunday morning, Jerry got the coffee on and we enjoyed some pastries before departure.

Special Thanks to Lana Blackstock for capturing our event with photos and providing attendees with a 3-page photo set for a keepsake. And Thanks again to George and Anita Maitland and Jim and Shirley Starks for making this Fall Fest possible.