

December is always one of our most attended camping weekends and this was no exception. The Springs RV resort in Silver Springs always welcomes us with open arms. The weekend weather was pleasantly warm and the area has enough activities to keep us entertained.

Friday night began with our brown bag dinner- great company and as always if you arrive on time at 5:00 o'clock you are actually late and have to look hard for a table to join. Bill led the calling and included one of my favorites- Stretchy Pants. The round dancers looked romantic spinning around the floor to beautiful songs like The Stars in the Sky under Ann's expert cueing- incidentally it was the first time Ann and Ivan were able to use their camper in a year- Ivan has recovered wonderfully from the insertion of two rods in his back which have led to him being without pain in a long time. Susan Snider also cued for a couple of sets- she played a new to me song that started with a 'C' that I meant to ask about, but I lost the thought before I had the chance to ask. Angela won the half and half drawing. Following the dance those of us with the energy joined Ron and Allan out by the campfire- it was huge and beautiful- thanks guys! I had a very informative discussion with Carolyn about used car shopping- by the way guys my mechanic says that I probably have a slow leak in my head gasket and that it is time for me to look for another car- used and low mileage- if you have a referral please let me know.

Saturday began with an excellent breakfast provided by the campground- as Anna pointed out, for \$5 we got a complete custom meal instead of the small cups of coffee we would pay for on the outside- it was a treat. Shortly after breakfast Mary, Pat, Tim, Angela, Dee and those I am omitting decorated the hall for the evening. Mary bought a collection off women's socks up for grabs- I know Dee and I took advantage. We had a small group for playing games- it was Martha's day for winning- not only in Rummy Kub but also in the 50-50 drawing that evening! Area activities included free admission to the Appleton Museum with their Dickens Christmas village and other wonderful displays, also the Market at Marion and thrift store shopping.

By 5:00 we were back at the dinner table where Ron and Linda cooked a delicious ham and the rest of us provided side dishes for a stellar meal. Bob and Barbara shared that this would be their main holiday meal- I think I have at least three more coming up and it will be no surprise that one of us will gain more weight than the other. Desserts were abundant- Debbie Cassidy's lemonade cake was my favorite (only because I do not eat chocolate)- but after I got home I also got to eat some of Dee's cheesecake with cherries- yum! Carolyn's spiced pecans with honey were a treat. I am not sure of the creators of all the other offerings but as always we were royally served. Dancing was so enjoyable- we were joined in dinner and dancing by Marilyn and Paul, as well as Gail and Gary who did not camp with us but joined in the festivities. We were surprised at the end of dancing by a drawing for Christmas treats provided by Mary- thanks a lot!

The traditional gift exchange got off to a polite (meaning slow) start with wine and other gifts but soon the action picked up! Nancy, Carol and Lolly were the persons that got to choose many gifts after their original gifts were grabbed by others. I can't remember

who first got the colored screwdrivers but they were stolen quickly. Lolly finally retrieved her original snuggly blanket gift. I stole Carol's holiday soap set - the second steal so I got to keep it. Everyone pitched in to quickly put the room back in order, and it was a late night to bed.

Tim announced that our original March camp out site was not being cooperative and would we be interested in returning to The Springs for our March camping trip and the whole group voted yes- I plan to make my reservation early so I can camp closer to the clubhouse. Gene told us that with our support the Veteran's group yard sale was a success raising more than \$2,000 on the first day of the sale.

I have already forwarded Gail's excellent picture of our group- as soon as I receive them I will send out more. Much hard work went into creating this wonderful weekend and we are grateful.

Have safe travels, stay healthy, and I will send out more information about January shortly. God bless.

Laura