

Charlotte North Carolina Exchange. Nov 11-18, 2013

In mid November, twenty members of our club participated in an eagerly anticipated visit with members of Friendship Force Charlotte, North Carolina . Although the cool temperatures during our stay there occasionally rivalled those in our familiar Haliburton, there was no mistaking the warmth of our southern hosts' welcome to their city and into their homes.



The program organized by Donna Bongard the E.D and Bob Halyburton the assistant E.D. was historically and culturally appealing. We visited places of current importance such as the Billy Graham library, and enjoyed a guided walking tour of the highlights of uptown Charlotte led by Bob. We were struck by the descriptive tour and introduction to the linguistically challenging work of the little known JAARS organization and the comprehensive alphabet museum. Their work with language, culture and biblical translation in far flung corners of the world opened new vistas for us. Charlotte's role during the the American revolution and the Civil War was outlined through tours of the Levine Museum of the New South downtown, the Museum of the Waxhaws directed by the Andrew Jackson Historical Foundation just south of Charlotte and the Schiele Museum in Gastonia.

All this activity should have allowed us to work up an appetite, or at least whittle our waistlines, but it was not to be! Delicious pot luck suppers as well as lunch at Bentley's on the 27th floor of the Charlotte Plaza which provided panoramic skyline views of the city while serving an excellent lunch and dinner at one of the few remaining fish camps in the area ensured that we enjoyed southern cooking at its traditional, generous and eclectic best.

Donna and Bob had both expressed the hope that this exchange would result in great memories and long lasting friendships. We think it will. Especially since Nancy Thomas their club president noted in her parting words their tentative plans to join us here for a 2016 exchange.