



Frustrated Maestros - Eastern Sharps & Flats

January 2024 Newsletter



Happy New Year Maestros!

We hope all of you were able to enjoy the holidays and are beginning to make your travel plans for 2024. For the Eastern Area Maestros there are several opportunities to gather with your fellow Maestros from all over to play, sing and make merry this year. The first event is just around the corner and will be the Southeast Area Rally (SEA) in Lakeland, Florida: February 7-10. Other rallies include the Great Lakes Area Rally in Greenville, Ohio: June 5-9; the Northeast Area Rally (NEAR) in Herkimer, New York: July 10-13; the Midwest Area Rally in Amana Colonies, Iowa: July 24-27; and of course, the Great Eastern Area Rally (GEAR) in Fletcher, North Carolina (Asheville): October 23-27. You can find all of the FMCA Area Rallies and International Conventions presently on the books on page 213 of your January 2024 *familyRVing* magazine.

Music Camp Heads to South Carolina; GEAR Returns to North Carolina

GEAR returns to the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center (WNCAC) near Asheville, NC, for the first time since 2015. More details will be forthcoming following the planning meeting that will be held onsite in May, but for now, put the week of October 21st on your calendar and in your travel plans. And don't forget that Music Camp is the week prior to GEAR, so keep the week of October 14th in your plans. Those of you that were with us in Lewisburg this past September will be pleased to learn that Ron Hazelett will once again be our Music Director.

The Asheville area has much to offer and October is the best month of the year to visit--so much so that campgrounds are booked to capacity months in advance. Fortunately finding a site to park will not be a problem for those coming to the Rally. It did, however, pose somewhat of a challenge for the Eastern Sharps & Flats Music Camp Committee. The WNCAC is completely booked the week prior to GEAR and so we had to look elsewhere for a facility that had ample sites available at a reasonable cost and also one with a building suitable for our use—exclusive use, lockable, and large enough for 40+ musicians. We found such a facility in Gaffney, South Carolina, which is about 70 miles from Fletcher, North Carolina using Interstates 85 & 26. So now you can put **Music Camp 2024** on your calendar for **October 15th through the 19th**.

These dates are a slight deviation from our traditional schedule in that the normal arrival will be on a Tuesday (October 15) with Music Camp running Wednesday through Saturday. Sunday will be a free day and we will caravan in groups of 4-5 to Fletcher on Monday, October 21st. This change was caused by the WNCAC stipulation that no one could arrive for GEAR prior to Monday the 21st.



The Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC



Cowpens National Battlefield near Gaffney, SC



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Spacious Skies to the Rescue

Spacious Skies is a collection of 15 acquired campgrounds running from Maine down to Georgia. They have been purchasing campgrounds with the goal of restoring them and updating them. Peach Haven Campground in Gaffney, South Carolina is a good example. Many of you may have stayed at this campground in years past when it was a KOA. Since being acquired by Spacious Skies over a year ago many improvements will be evident to you. The amenities of Peach Haven can be found online at <https://spaciousskiescampgrounds.com/peach-haven>.

They have a wide variety of sites available ranging from full hook-up, back-in sites to a new section of Deluxe pull-ins or pull-thrus. Published prices range from \$ 42 to \$ 65. Our price will be discounted 20%. In addition they are providing us the use of their Club House at no cost.

You will need to make your reservations for Music Camp directly with Spacious Skies. There will not be a reservation form or fee that goes to the Chapter, but please Email or Text Bruce Taylor at bet426@comcast.net (Phone or Text 706 255 4081) after you make your camping reservation with Spacious Skies to let him know you are coming. Time is of the essence. We are only guaranteed sites through the end of March.

A Word About Gaffney...

If you have ever traveled up I-85 through South Carolina, you have been through Gaffney. If you're not quite sure, you may remember seeing the large peach-shaped water tower along I-85, which has affectionately been dubbed as the "peach butt" by those that have witnessed it. And, if your motor home is on a Freightliner chassis, it was most likely "born in Gaffney" as it is the home of Freightliner's Custom Chassis Division. In addition to the factory there is also a large service center and parts department.

Gaffney is about 15 miles south of the North Carolina border and is home to the very large Gaffney Outlet Market Place where you'll find name brand outlet stores of almost every kind. In addition, Gaffney has just about any kind of restaurant you can imagine.

Making a Reservation

- ◆ Our contact is Victoria (Tori) Rulle at Spacious Skies: **862 777-0319 x369**
 - * M-W-Th 11 am to 7 pm
 - * Tue. 11am to 5 pm
 - * Fri. 11 am to 8 pm
- ◆ Let her know that you are with the Frustrated Maestros Music Camp at Peach Haven in Gaffney, South Carolina in October. Tori will help you choose a site that best fits your needs.
- ◆ A map of the campground can be found on page 3 of this Newsletter.
- ◆ You may also contact Spacious Skies Peach Haven directly at **864 489-4022** if you wish.
- ◆ You can make a reservation for any early arrival date you wish (if available) but as a minimum you should plan on arriving October 15th and departing October 21st (6 nights).
- ◆ Payment must be made at the time of your reservation.
- ◆ Cancellation Policy
 - * A week or more prior to arrival: full refund less 10%
 - * Less than one week: no refund
- ◆ Spacious Skies will hold sites for us through the first quarter (March 31st). Reservations can be made after that date only if sites are available. We strongly recommend you make reservations before the end of March.



For the history buffs there are a lot of Revolutionary war sites including the Cowpens National Battlefield, about 12 miles from Gaffney as well as the Kings Mountain National Military Park, which is just 20 miles from Gaffney .



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LEGEND	
	RV, 50 amp Full Hookup
	Premium RV site
	Tent, 30/20 amp, electric.
	Tent, 30/20 amp, water & electric.
	Cabin
	Dumpster
	Bathroom
	Parking
	Mini Golf
	Dump Station
	Playground
	Community Pit
	Benches
	Catch and Release Fishing Only
	Propane refill
	Horseshoes
	Gem Mining



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Peach Haven Campground



MUSIC CAMP COMMITTEE 2023—2024

Cliff Freed	610 972-2888
Philip Fuller	803 556-1813
Secretary: Kathy Fuller	803 467-2594
Music Director: Ron Hazelett	330 701-7523
President: Bruce Taylor	706 255-4081

Stay connected to the Eastern Sharps & Flats on Facebook. You do not need to have a Facebook Account to see the latest news. Just follow the link below. Give it a try.

The Facebook link is <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100084150331800>

