

SMOKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER 15TH REUNION AND 4TH FALL FROLIC

By Kelly Bowling

The Smoky Mountain Chapter of the NCVA held its fifteenth reunion and fourth Fall Frolic in Montgomery, Alabama 17-19 October 2013. The event was graciously hosted by Joe and Pat Bearrentine and headquarters for the Frolic was the Double Tree by Hilton.

The Frolic was another rousing success with lots of camaraderie, sea stories, renewing old acquaintances and welcoming some new faces. Thirty five folks attended and the great state of North Carolina was represented by ten attendees. Host state Alabama was represented by eight attendees, Georgia had six folks while Kentucky and Florida tied with four each. Texas had two folks visit and Tennessee came in last with only one attendee. Lee and Martha Mobley made another return trip to the Frolic and represented the Lone Star Chapter.

A Host Certificate was presented to Joe and Pat Bearrentine and a special certificate was presented to Captain Don C. East (Retired) for his very informative presentation of the history of Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson Park. His vast knowledge of the histories of Alabama and of the Native Americans living in Alabama always make his contributions to these tours worth attending.

The 01' Jake Award was presented to Lee Mobley for his numerous sea stories, truisms, much needed veracity, modesty of his many deeds and all stories warmed by big chunks of semantic obfuscation. A very modest Texan at his finest!

Several drawings for medicinal tonics were won by Pete Moore, Jo Kershner, Floyd Jones, Jim Lindley and Lee Mobley (which will add to his list of sea stories). Gift baskets donated by the local Chamber of Commerce were won by Jo Kershner and John "Gus" Gustafson. The 50/50 drawing was won by hostess Pat Bearrentine on an honest draw!

John Odell and Ron Green, both from North Carolina, were chosen to be judges of medicinal tonics using standard tasting formats. Ron Green won the award in a close contest based on his facial expressions, mutterings and ability to uncross his eyes after tasting.

Based on information provided by John and Ron, certificates for the tonics were given to Jim Lindley (Gold), Hank Kershner (silver) and Kelly Bowling (Bronze). Jim Lindley, as he is wont to do, stacked the deck again by submitting two different containers of tonics.

After the awards and prizes ceremonies phase of the Frolic, a brief discussion was held about the 2014 and 2015 locations. Tentatively 2014 is planned for Charlotte, NC and 2015 for Brevard, North Carolina gatherings. Additional information can be found at the website: <http://smokymountainncva.com>.

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