

Keystone Kangaroos: A Special July Rally



The Keystone Kangaroos made their annual pilgrimage to J&D Campground in Catawissa, Pennsylvania, July 12-14. Some members came early and brought their grandchildren to take advantage of Knoebel's Amusement Park, which is right down the road. It's an old classic park—parking and admission are free, and rides cost different amounts of tickets. The other attendees arrived on Thursday, July 11, to leisurely set up camp and relax.

KK rallies officially start at 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Name badges are required or one of the eagle-eyed sheriffs will assess you a fine of 25 cents. Dinner was on our own Friday, and we met around 7:00 p.m. for our campfire. We spent the evening catching up with each other, telling tales, and having a few laughs.

Saturday morning started with breakfast provided by our wagon masters Bill and Shari Gallagher. Our customary fare consists of a variety of doughnuts along with bagels and various spreads. Each member brings their own beverage.

During a regular monthly rally, we hold our business meeting after breakfast, but this was a special Saturday and we rescheduled our meeting till the campfire that evening. This Saturday we were going to attend a Celebration of Life for our member John Hughes, who lost his battle with cancer back in November. John's wife Sue had invited all of us to attend this celebration, which was held at her son's farm in Berwyck, PA.

We left the campground around 10:45 a.m. and drove the 45 minutes to the farm. Upon arrival, we were greeted by Sue, members of her family, and her sweet dachshund Buddha. It was so good to see her, meet her family, and see Buddha again! The honor guard was scheduled to begin at noon, so we all took our seats in the breezy, shady back yard. The three navy servicemen somberly made their way into position; two with John's flag, and the bugler off alone. Words cannot describe how moving it is to watch these servicemen unfold the flag with the utmost respect. The flag was opened and held up, and Taps was played into the summer air. The flag was then refolded, again with complete precision and respect, and presented back to Sue Hughes.

Family members spoke about John and how much he loved to spend time at the farm and then butterflies, wrapped in folded paper, were handed out and released into the breeze. It was a beautiful way to honor and remember our dear friend John.

We enjoyed the afternoon spent with old and new friends, telling stories about John, eating delicious food (featuring a whole pig!), and celebrating life.



Back at the campground, we relaxed a while before gathering for the campfire. More than one couple had ice cream for dinner at the ice cream stand across the road from J&D. At the campfire, we conducted our business meeting and had our 50/50, which was won by Stephanie Jeremiah. Our president, Bill Gallagher, handed out a Keystone Kangaroo Klutz Award to Maria Weidman, which had something to do with not knowing the difference between a real gummy bear and one laced with marijuana. Let's just leave it at that. Maria was also given a package of real gummy bears!

Sunday morning brought another breakfast of yummy doughnuts and bagels, then we said our goodbyes until the August rally, which will be held in Gordonville, Pennsylvania.