



Mass One Chapter 9
Circle CG Farm Campground
Bellingham, MA
October 14 – 16, 2011

Well - We had *one* weekend without rain this season, but not this one. The morning started off in mist, then spits, then drenches of rain, and even no rain. Ted arrived (Diana was on a quilt tour and came later that night.) around mid – morning, knocked on the Howard’s rig to get some help backing in. Ken and Donna arrived Thursday night so Ken could get an early (5:00 A.M.!) start to work Friday. *I did my best, Ted, even though your trailer was slanted like this print.*

Once that was done and the rain began to spit again, Ruth, Jason and Arthur arrived and pulled right into their site. After lunch, the Mulhalls arrived, then the Pacelts (no Isabel this time), the Laskers, the Nelsons and finally after dark the Lynch’s arrived with Collin aboard.

Not many of us had ever been to this campground before. The safari field, as it turned out, had pockets of low spots, and, of course, you know the rain collected in deep puddles in front of several rigs. **The dogs loved the puddles!!!**

The Friday night Pot Luck was held in the “Grover” area pavilion shaped like a fort with a stage and half picnic table benches and tops to face the stage so everyone could see the entertainment of any weekend. Being creative, we combined two 12’ tables so we could talk to each other and face each other to talk. Varied and delicious are two adjectives that described dinner – steak kabobs, rice pilaf, sweet potato casserole, succotash soup, mini hot dogs in sauce, potato salad and others I’m sure I have forgotten. You missed it and we missed you if you were not there. After dinner we returned to our rigs and hoped that the rain would stop. It did! – a little - just enough for us to gather around the Jack-O-Lantern under Ruth’s awning to share Halloween goodies and conversation. **On the other hand, some just stayed in their rigs and waved out the windows.**

Oh, Saturday morning – so bright, so sunny, cool, crisp, and breezy. *How did Ken ever make himself go to work until 12?* At least he did not wake me at 5 o’clock when he left! It was a great morning to get the kinks out and stretch. We were all looking forward to the Holiday Party at noon and the food we brought for the Holliston Food Pantry will be given to John after dinner. They sure will have a nice variety of people and pet food.

Ask Jack what time his son dropped off the two girls... Yep – they arrived quite early (6 AM). During the day they became very friendly with another “jack”.



12 Noon Sharp – the caravan to Restaurant 45 meandered out of the campground – a 10 minute drive. Deb and John Williams were there waiting for us as was Diana Hatch who left the campground early in the morning as well for something she had planned. Ken joined us at 12:30. Do you think he had the pedal to the metal?

A grand tray of cheese, crackers and grapes greeted us hungry folks and that was soon gone. Dinner arrived amongst the chatting.



LOOK AT THAT MEATBALL!!!

It just so happened that it was Lou Lasker’s birthday. Barbara surprised him with a scrumptious cake she brought and hid in the Mulhall’s car.



Our server took it and returned it cut and with ice cream on the side for everyone. Umm-mm-good! Thank you, Barbara!

Well, we wobbled out of the restaurant and could only think of how were we going to work off the great dinner? You guessed it – ***Pumpkin Bowling!***

Let me set the scene...

The “pins” [one liter bottles filled ½ way with water] were set up by Jim Lynch (hence, our “pin boy”) outside the Nelson’s rig toward the rear on the grass.

The “Bowlers” were situated at the opposite end of the grass seated in a semi-circle, each with a pumpkin in hand.

There was no specific order to start, but every round (10) kept the same order because **Cindy Lynch** kept score.

There were hoots and hollers when the gals knocked down more than 8, but especially if they got a spare. {Sh-h...Don’t think any of the gals got a strike.} When the guys had their turns, there were not so many hoots and hollers just “because” they are supposed to be good(?). Anyway, Collin really wanted his revenge on *last year’s loss* to Jason.

However, in the end, it was the pumpkin “pin boy”, **Jim Lynch**, who got his just desserts. Great Job, Jim, with the high score of 116 for the day! **Maybe you should Count up that score again, Cindy!**



Seriously, Jim had the advantage of watching everyone else “bowl” and watching where the pumpkins would spot, and of course the practice of throwing the pumpkins back to the bowlers didn’t hurt either! (Jason still scored higher than Collin, but **Jason Pardee took third place, and in second place – Pat Mulhall! Yea, Pat!!!**)

The Mulhall girls were picked up by their dad just before the end of the bowling and the Howard’s family, Jon, Caren and Brady arrived to share the campfire (or maybe the Haunted House in the campground). The dinner hour passed right on by, then slowly the snacks appeared on the Jack-O-Lantern table, chairs appeared with folks in them and the fire was crackling in the fire pit; jackets were pulled just a bit tighter around to ward off **the creepy chill**. But we enjoyed the great cupcakes made by Deb Nelson, the angel food cake and whipped cream made by Donna Howard, cookies made by the grocery store and other delicious snacks shared by others, (can’t remember – senior moment) homemade or otherwise. Thank you, John, for making that huge S’more for Brady to try.

Sunday morning was a carbon copy of Saturday morning. Ted went to the Howard’s rig to ask Donna if she could do the church service in place of Jack who had to rush off to the ER for a quick medical fix, we hoped. We decided to forego the service just as Jack returned to say all was well. He said he would do the service as planned. Thank you, Jack, for a very thoughtful service and thanks for filling in for Barbara Powers who was on her way to Florida with Bob.

The club meeting was held right after our dinner at the restaurant instead of Saturday morning to insure that everyone would be there. Here is a summary:

1. Ted Hatch, District Director will speak with the MOT's of VT and CT to solidify the activities of the Spring Fling. Updates on all activities of the Spring Fling will be sent out as soon as they are finalized.
2. **Tentative camping schedule** for 2012:
April 14 – Camp-in, place TBD
May 11-13 Spring Fling at Bald Mountain, VT
June (Grand Master's Fair weekend) Oak Haven CG, Wales, MA
July – TBD
August – Plymouth area (Ellis Haven or Pine Wood Lodge CG)
September 14-16 – District 1 Rally (either Village Green or Travelers Woods, TBD at Spring Fling)
October 12-14 – Ginny –B, Foster, RI
John is still confirming locations and dates.
3. Jack and Pat Mulhall will be traveling quite a bit next season, but they encourage us to camp as much as possible. Jack will be in contact often. He is in the process of narrowing down the location for the 2015 Rally.
4. Jane Smith is doing well and she and John Sutterly will hopefully be leaving for Florida by November 7.
5. Both John and Deb Williams' moms are ill and keep them in your prayers.
6. Shirley Sayer has had a bad back and could not make this last camp-out. She is collecting signed Christmas cards to send to the troops overseas. If you have any you want to send overseas with her package, send them to Shirley Sayer, 4 Watson Way, Danvers, MA 01923.

Reminders:

1. Ruth now has the chapter vest pattern and material. 1-413-525-1544
2. Support other club camp-outs or camp-ins whenever possible.
3. Connecticut Holiday Celebration camp-in December 10, 2011 *form attached for anyone who wishes to attend.*
4. Keep saving those can tabs!
5. Updates on our camping schedule and Spring Fling forms and information will be coming as soon as they are finalized.
6. Have a safe, wonderful, relaxing winter season and enjoyable holidays with your family and friends.
7. Be sure to look at our ad in the new News to Campers, winter issue. There should also be some familiar photos in there, too. Check them out.

See you campin',

Donna

PS: Thank you Jack Mulhall for the great photos.

Mass One Chapter 9 Contact Information

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