

**Bull Run Regional Park
October 17-21**

Attendees: Heather, Marsha G, Kathy, Sherry

Marsha G and Heather had dinner out at IHOP on Thursday evening and 'potluck' around the campfire Friday. Saturday, Sherry arrived in time to go to breakfast at Denny's in Manassas. When we got back to the campground Kathy had arrived and we spent the day enjoying a long campfire. We did not have a formal meeting but did discuss the impact of our national organization shutting down. The consensus was that until we receive legal notification re: the use of the Loners On Wheels name we should not make any changes to our group name.

NOTE: I have removed the mention of our designation as a 'chapter' of Loners On Wheels from the website but have otherwise left our name intact - Heather

**Pohick Bay Regional Park Camp,
Sept. 19-Sept. 22
Kathy - Wagonmaster
Barb, Joanne, Sherry, Marsha G., Gene.**

Thursday-Set up camp, join up for dinner

Friday-Stayed in camp. Breakfast together, Painted rocks to put in camp, walked, played putt-putt at Pohick Bay Campground, pot luck dinner together, LOW meeting, campfire.

Saturday-Breakfast together, excursion to Army Museum, played Rummikub, Yahtzee, dinner together, campfire.

Sunday-Breakfast together, some campers depart camp, some campers stayed and departed Monday morning.

MINUTES OF LoWs SEPT. 20, 2024, MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Joanne O'Donnell, President, at Pohick Bay Regional Park campground at 6:44 p.m., on Sept. 20, 2024. Campers:

Joanne O
Marsha G
Sherry M
Barb F
Kathy S, Wagon Master
Gene W (guest)

Joanne read the minutes from the August meeting, which were approved as read. The treasury was reported as \$514.50, with \$214.50 in possession of the Wagon Master and \$300 being stored with our President.

Joanne reviewed the 2025 Wagon Master commitments to date as follows:

April (available)
May (Joanne)
June (Sherry)
July (Barb)
August (Marsha G)
September (available)
October (Heather)

Joanne reported on the dissolution of LoWs National organization and the sale of the Deming, New Mexico, campground. Prepaid dues to LoWs National have been refunded to those requesting them. The group discussed the future of our LoWs chapter. The general consensus was that we wish to continue as a camping group but that we now have an opportunity to change or add to our procedures and camping expectations or perhaps reinvent the group entirely outside the now-nonexistent LoWs umbrella. A variety of potential changes were discussed. To get the ideas and opinions of those not present at this campout, it seemed appropriate to discuss any changes over the course of two future meetings.

We discussed whether and, if so, how to dispose of our treasury. Our only monthly expense is for firewood, so we considered whether to just chip in for firewood among those in attendance and/or whether to maintain nominal annual dues as an indicator of membership in the group.

Joanne is finalizing the member list with emergency points of contact and will send it out shortly.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by Kathy Schmidt, Wagon Master

Blackwater Falls State Park

15-18 August 2024

Attendees: Kathy, Ralph, Wanda and Sherry (Wagon master)

General: The park of 2,358 acres is located in the Allegheny mountains in Tucker County, WV and named for the amber water of the Blackwater Falls. The water is tinted by the tannic acid of fallen hemlock and red spruce needles. This park was established in 1937 when 446 acres were donated to the state that included the falls. In addition to 20 miles of hiking trails, it offers an 18 hole disc golf course, a lake for canoeing or kayaking and in the winter, the longest sled run on the east coast.

Agenda: We arrived at various times leading up to the start of the campout. Greetings included %Smiles and Hugs+. After settling into our respective sites, we gathered at the wagon master site to talk and plan our activities for the campout. Mother Nature decided to add some challenges by drizzling or raining off and on during the campout but the daytime temperature stays in the 70s with slight breezes and the evenings were cool in the 50s so it was great camping weather. Friday we spent exploring the park and some of the observation decks for the falls and the canyon. That evening we shared a pot luck dinner and enjoyed talking about our day. With the rain on Saturday, we enjoyed some intense games of Rummikub and just talking with one another. We ventured across the park to the Lodge and its Smokehouse restaurant for dinner. We had a challenge that night when the campground loop where 3 of us were set up lost power for several hours but it was cool outside so rigs were not terribly uncomfortable. With rain and wind in the forecast for Sunday afternoon and Monday, each member decided to leave very early Sunday morning to head back home and the campout basically ended in hugs and goodnights as folks departed for their rigs on Saturday night.

MINUTES OF LoWs BUSINESS MEETING, BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK, AUGUST 17, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Sherry McNeil, at 5.59 p.m. The following were in attendance:

Ralph

Kathy

Wanda

Sherry (Wagon Master)

The July meeting minutes were approved with no amendments.

Treasury: \$514.50 (\$214.50 in custody of Wagon Master; \$300 in custody of President).

Members were encouraged to volunteer and schedule as Wagon Masters for 2025. Sherry provided an update on the June 2025 campout at Lake Anna State Park and that the schedule for the farm tour will be available in the spring of 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Sherry McNeil, Wagon Master

Powhatan State Park

18-21 July 2024

Attendees: Kathy, Ralph, Barb, Marsha, Joanne and Sherry (Wagon master)

General: This fairly new (2013) 1,565 acre state park with 2.5 miles of riverfront is located in Powhatan Country, VA. It features camping (RV, hike/boat-in primitive and yurts), along with 8 miles of hiking and biking trails with some overlap with equestrian trails. River floats starting in the park can be arranged through a private business. It is a peaceful, quiet park with diverse wildlife habitat from open fields to forests. The RV campground is small with 29 e/w sites but it is exceedingly well maintained and the sites are huge compared to other parks.

Agenda: We arrived at various times leading up to the start of the campout. Greetings included ~~hugs~~ hugs which made everyone smile and started the weekend. After settling into our respective sites, we gathered at the wagon master site to talk and plan our activities for the campout. Some decided to stay at the campground the next day while a few of us decided to try a tubing experience on the James. It was a nearly 4-hour float since the James is running slow and very low due to the current drought conditions in central VA. We were partly successful in keeping off the rocks and out of the tree snags. That evening we shared a pot luck dinner and enjoyed talking about our day. Since it was so very hot, humid and occasional rain, the group stayed in camp during the day on Saturday. Then we ventured into the town of Powhatan for dinner at a recommended restaurant. Sunday was spent helping those who had to head back home and the campout officially ended again in hugs as folks departed.

**MINUTES OF LoWs BUSINESS MEETING
POWHATAN STATE PARK
JULY 19, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by President, Joanne O'Donnell, at 7:26 p.m. The following were in attendance:

Ralph
Barb
Sherry (Wagon Master)
Marsha M
Joanne
Kathy

The June meeting minutes were read and, there being no amendments, were approved.

Treasury: \$514.50 (\$214.50 in custody of Wagon Master; \$300 in custody of President).

Members were encouraged to volunteer and schedule as Wagon Masters for 2025. Joanne volunteered to host the May campout at Kiptopeke State Park. Sherry brought up the previously discussed Farm Tour in Keswick as a campout destination, with camping at Lake Anna State Park. To attend the Farm Tour on June 14th would require a schedule adjustment from our usual third week to the second week of June. Joanne made a motion to move our June 2025 campout from the third to the second week to allow us to attend the Farm Tour and fair. Barb seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion passed, so the June 2025 campout will take place during the second week of June.

Joanne updated the member contact and emergency contact information for each of the group.

As the Virginia LoWs contact person, Barb asked for clarification about the number of free+visits to our group. The group decided that visitors could attend two campouts to determine if they fit with the group but would be expected to join on the third visit.

Annual dues are to be paid at the first meeting of the camping year in April. The Wagon Master will collect the dues and record each member's name to properly account for the funds.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Sherry McNeil, Wagon Master

Tuckahoe State Park 16-20 May 2024

Attendees: Kathy, Ralph, Wanda, Marsha, Sherry and Joanne (Wagonmaster)

General: This 3800 acre state park with a 60 acre lake and 430 acre Adkins Arboretum is located in Queen Anne and Caroline counties on the Delmarva Peninsula. It features camping (RV, primitive and cabins), hiking, biking and boating.

Agenda: We arrived at various times leading up to the start of the campout. Greetings included hugs which made everyone smile and started the fun. Thursday night was full of laughter, smiles, and deciding what as a group we wanted to do during the day. The group chose to visit the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad NHP Museum.

With the morning departure after meeting for breakfast, we headed towards St. Michaels and the maritime museum. It is an 18 acre interactive museum featuring a collection of bay artifacts, exhibits, vessels, and an active restoration shipyard. The site also has the 1879 Hooper Straight Lighthouse open for visitors to climb to the top. After lunch at the restaurant, we returned to the campground and several hours later, had a way too much food+pot luck, a business meeting after dinner and a wonderful campfire to end the day.

On Saturday, we again set out after breakfast but in the opposite direction now heading to the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Church Creek, MD. The museum commemorates her life and preserves some of the same land she used to carry herself and others away from slavery. Later that evening we gathered around the campfire again and just enjoyed listening to the owls and other nightlife.

On Sunday some of us visited the Aviary at the park office, others had to head back home and the campout ended again in hugs as folks departed.

MINUTES OF LoWs MEETING

DATE: May 17, 2024

LOCATION: Tuckahoe State Park

The meeting was called to order by President, Joanne O'Donnell, on May 17th at 4:13 p.m. at Tuckahoe State Park, MD

ATTENDEES:

Joanne, President
Kathy
Ralph
Wanda
Marsha G
Sherry

OLD BUSINESS:

Kathy distributed requested flags to those present and will distribute the remaining at future campout.

Joanne informed the group that the National office is refunding a prorated portion of dues collected based on the decision to no longer collect national dues from members. Each individual must email the national office requesting the refund and must include name, how much was paid and probably should add when membership expires. The request is to be sent to lonersonwheels@gmail.com, attention Bonnie

The club email list was passed around for updating and if the member wants to include an emergency point of contact, that can be included also. This list will not be shared with anyone other than club members.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.
The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Submitted,

Joanne O'Donnell, President

MINUTES OF LoWs MEETING

DATE: April, 19, 2024

LOCATION: Newport News Park Campground, Newport News, VA

President, Joanne O'Donnell, called the meeting to order at 6:26 p.m.

Attendees:

Ralph Fleming

Barb Foley

Sherry McNeil

Joanne O'Donnell

Kathy Schmidt

The group held a moment of silence to recall our late member, Anita Talbott, who passed away on Nov. 11, 2023. Susan, Anita's daughter, will be invited to the May campout to commemorate her mother, Anita.

There were no minutes from the October, 2023, meeting.

Joanne thanked our 2023 president, Sherry McNeil, for her performance.

In 2023, the group agreed to set annual dues at \$5, and each of the above attendees paid their dues. The chapter funds, along with these paid dues, were transferred to the custody of the president.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kathy Schmidt reported on chapter flags for those who ordered them and handed out pre-ordered flags.

NEW BUSINESS:

Barb Foley volunteered to serve as the chapter contact person to replace Anita Talbott.

Recent changes at LoWs National occurred:

Bonnie Cook was selected as the new president.

National Dues to LoWs National have been eliminated.

Although LoWs National will not have a newsletter, it will still have a web site.

New LoWs members will contact the local chapter versus going through National.

Rather than having our president lead the chapter meeting as well as taking the meeting minutes, the group decided to select a scribe to take the minutes. Unless unable to attend the campout, the scribe will take the meeting minutes and forward them to the president. If unable to attend, someone else will take the minutes. Barb Foley volunteered to serve as the chapter scribe.

Joanne gave out LoWs pens, stickers, and pamphlets.

The group observed that we need to update the member roster to include emails and phone numbers.

The need to access members emergency contacts was discussed, with more discussion to occur at the May meeting.

With LoWs National dues discontinuation, the question arose about the membership status of on-going LoWs members who have not paid chapter dues. Rather than members who are in arrears having to recoup their past dues to remain a member, it was decided that these persons would be treated as new chapter members upon payment of that year's dues.

With appropriate motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.