

Georgia on Track



Award winning publication

Grand Voiture du Georgia

Volume 556, July, August, September 2014



Message from the Grand Chef de Gare Robert "Abbey" Abbensett



*Remember no matter
what you do! Dear
Abbey Luv Ya.*

Well Georgia, here I am in living color. (smile) first off I want to thank all the Voyageurs who thought enough to elect me to this great plateau as your Grand Chef. I promise not to disappoint you or let you down. Now down to business, as I stated in my inaugural address my 1st goal is to upgrade Georgia's membership. That is why I have adopted the theme of SUV for 2014-15. SUV What is that you say? Well to put it in words that all can digest is "SIGN UP VETERANS", if everyone signs up 1 new or renew a member Georgia's count will amaze us all. I don't care if he or she, (remember there are women vets also) or is a member or non member of any military organization but if they served and were honorably discharged or retired they are qualified Veterans for 40/8 membership. Sign them up and both will benefit. My 2nd goal is to work somehow on a committee or group to find out what Georgia is going to do to help all veterans that have been forgotten in the VA hospitals. I have contacted the VA hospital in Atlanta and asked to be added to any group working to assist our veterans who gave it all and cast to the unknown. Lastly on visitations, I will get to see you but send me your address and telephone number and I will contact you on my pending arrival. but give me something else except a meeting like an event if possible. 100 miles or more is a long way for me to travel just to say Hello and Good Bye. Again I am humbled to be your Grand Chef. I will make mistakes but never the same one twice. Take care and I will see you soon. "God Bless the USA" and all that read this article.

From the Desk of Grand Correspondant Tom Reesman



Grand needs a list of all the Voitures New Officers and Directeurs. Please ensure that your correspondants provide us the updated roster. I can accept the roster

via mail or email. Prompt and accurate reporting is necessary to ensure we have a valid means of communicating with all the Voitures.

Voiture 1226 just hosted a fine Grand Promenade in Athens. Fun was had by all and believe it or not business was conducted. Congratulations to the newly elected and appointed officers and Directeurs of the Grand du Georgia.

One very important piece of news is that the next Grand function, the Petite Cheminot will be held in Gainesville, GA at the Gainesville VFW on 10 Aug 2014. A flyer will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks. Please ensure that we have an updated way of contacting your Voiture, so we can ensure the information on the Petite gets out.

OUR NEW LEADERS



Grand Chef de Gare Abbey Abbensett and Grande LaPresidente Teresa Smith. Look at those smiles! Let's see if they are still smiling at the end of the year. I am sure they will both do a great job, Let's all give them all the support that we can.



Grande La Presidente Corner

Teresa Smith



I was born as Teresa A. Bennett, on June 18, 1958 to Jerry & Joan Bennett. My father died when I was 4 & my brother was

only 3, so our mother raised us as a single parent. She was the best mom any one could ask for. I met my best friend & soulmate later in life while working at the Chatham Co. Sheriff's Dept. and it didn't take long for us to realize that God had plans for us to be together for the rest of our lives. We both know that it was his plans for us to be together, not ours. We are so thankful for that every day. Don & I have been married 11 1/2 years and have 4 wonderful children and 2 beautiful grandchildren. Now enough about me! I would first like to thank the Dames for your confidence and trust in electing me as your new Grande La Presidente. I feel so honored and proud to have been chosen to serve such a wonderful group of Dames. I know with the support of each and every one of you we can make this one of the best years we have had in a long time. I would like to say "Thank you" to the Voyageur's & Dames of 1226 for the wonderful job they did on hosting the Grande this year in Athens. The hospitality room, banquet, entertainment and the hotel was outstanding. If you did not have a good time it was your own fault. Thank you again for a wonderful time. I am planning on visiting all of the Cabanes in Ga. this year so that I will be able see old friends and meet new ones. Hopefully we can work together to get at least 1 or 2 new Dames to each Cabane this year so our membership will grow. With the help of our 2 new La Sous Presidente: Dottie Bolig and Shirley Hayes who will also be visiting to help get the membership going again. My Motto this year is **QUILTS: Quality Cabanes, Unites, Integrity, Love, Trust, Sincerity.** That we can wrap around each other to feel the warmth of our love that we should have as a "Sisterhood". We need to leave our differences at the door and become sisters at heart. If you need me, I am as close as your phone. Thanks again for your love & trust.

**To our Men and Women in Uniform
We Thank You
May God Bless and Keep you**

(912) 429-8775,

Email: teresasmith26@charter.net

SWAN SONG



It has been a great year for Wava and I, We are so attached to our 40/8 family that we can't imagine not being a part of it. 40/8 is not just a Veterans organization, it is a way of life for us. It really has been a pleasure serving Grand du Georgia. I have mixed feelings about (not) being Chef de Gare. I know it is time to move on but I miss the position already. The important thing is that the new slate of 40/8 officers are as good as they can be. I know all of them and they have my support and respect. It has been a huge pleasure serving with and for you, if ever you need anything from me please feel free to give me a call.(678-882-6643). I did not get to do everything I wanted to or go visit ever where I wanted to go. After all tomorrow is another day and I will get there. Invite a Veteran into our great 40/8 Family. What a wonderful ride as Grande Chef de Gare! Thanks again. Ken



Wow, how time flies when your having fun. It's been a great year and I've enjoyed every moment of being your Grande Presidente for the past year. I'd like to thank each and every Dame for all your help, from the Dames at the Local level to the Dames at the Grand level. Each and every Dame has contributed to the best of her ability and I like to say "Thanks, for all your help.", to all of you for all of your efforts. I Thank you for your time, money, food, or just your presence at every Promenade, Rendezvous, or Cheminots. Without each and every Dame our organization would be nothing. Remember you and you only can make a difference as to whether our Cabanes are successful or a failure. So lets continue to be a fruitful and successful organization. God Bless each and every one of you and God bless our troops.



GRAND AUMONIER

Nick Nicholson



FAITH: What a simple five letter word that can mean so very much to each and every one of us. As a Marine, I had faith that my brother Marines would not abandon me, regardless of circumstances. When my children and grandchildren were little and I coaxed them into jumping into a pool, they had faith that Papa would not let anything happen to them. At the memorial service of a dear departed friend, the pastor kept bringing up the word "hope" when talking about her and her belief in the resurrection. I was asked to speak and present a flag to the daughter, I contradicted the pastor in that I knew her very well and she did not have "Hope" she had faith in the resurrection. How strong is the word FAITH? When Jesus was asked to heal a Centurion's servant, Jesus said lead the way to your house. The Centurion replied, you only have to speak the words and he will be healed. Jesus said "I have not found so great faith, no not in Israel". The servant was healed in the same hour. (Matthew 8:9-10). We believers in Christ as our savior are saved from eternal death by FAITH through GRACE because Jesus said (John 11:25) "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead yet shall he live. Do you have the faith to believe?"



From the Funny Farm

New Threat in California

Investigative sources in California say that radical Muslims are planning to go on a rampage in the city of Los Angeles, killing anyone who is a U.S. citizen. Police officials fear the death toll could be as high as 9.

Today's Short Reading from the Bible
From Genesis: "And God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the earth." Then He made the earth round...and He laughed and laughed and laughed!

Best Definition of Obama Care
Remember when Nancy Pelosi said: "We have to pass it, to find out what's in it." A physician called in to a radio show and said: "that's the definition of a stool sample".

That pretty well sums it up

Petite Cheminot



When: Sunday August 10th, 2014
Host: Voiture 1317 Gainesville
Where: VFW Post, 1955 Delta Drive
Gainesville
Lunch: 12:00 Noon
Cheminot: 1:00 PM

Hotel Info:

Fairfield Inn and Suites, 1755 Browns Bridge Road, Gainesville Georgia 30501
Phone: 678 971-4670

Mention that you will be attending the veteran's event at the VFW for the military rate of \$83.

Free, hot, breakfast is provided. This property is practically next door to the VFW.

The VFW is a private canteen and will provide some entertainment on Saturday the 9th of August. The canteen will be open starting at 1200 until 2300 or so. All 40 & 8 Voyageurs and Dames are invited guests on Saturday the 9th and Sunday the 10th. Please come and enjoy, and if you let me know what your favorite beverage is, I will try to ensure it will be available.....

There will be a 50/50 raffle and a liquor basket raffle; tickets will be \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

The Voiture 1317 committee requests that each Voiture/Cabane let them know how many of their members plan to attend, and a hard number of attendees who are going to eat.

For more information contact Tom Reesman at: reesmanta@yahoo.com.
Or Leon or Gail Marable at: gmarabl@bellsouth.net

GRAND PROMENADE

Hosted by
Voiture 1226



Business to be conducted



Repeat after me



They said I will & I do



Pinned by hubby



Chef de Gare elect



Raise your right hand



A great slate of officers



Madam Martha did the honors



Your Past Chef pin,
wear it with pride

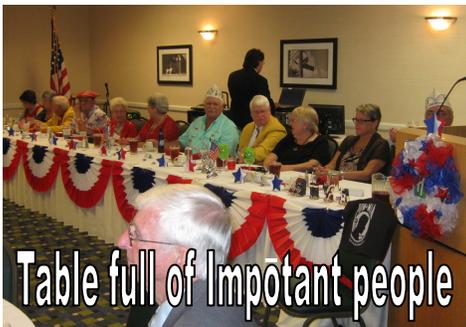


Table full of Impōtant people



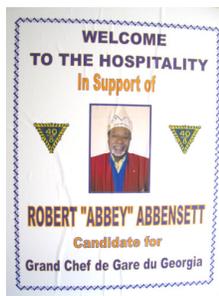
Proof that Georgia is
special, not every Grand
has Uncle Sam for an MC



Good crowd, good banquet



Out with the old, in with the new



Abbey says,
Ya'll come to
my water'in hole



Good fellowship

GRANDE DE GEORGIA TROPHY AND AWARDS FOR 2014-15
A reminder from Grande Correspondant Cheryl Boswell: Locales get your reports submitted by the August 18th, deadline

GRANDE TROPHY & AWARDS - 2014

| Program | Grand Total | | 1st Place | 2nd Place |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| AMERICANISM | 69,929 | 30+ Members | 280 | 217 |
| | | <29 Members | 719 | 909 |
| CHILD WELFARE | 43,640 | 30+ Members | 280 | 217 |
| | | <29 Members | 909 | 719 |
| CARVILLE STAR | 1,930 | 30+ Members | 217 | 280 |
| | | <29 Members | 499 | 719 |
| NURSES TRAINING | 3,870 | 30+ Members | 280 | 217 |
| | | <29 Members | 909 | 499 |
| YOUTH SPORTS | 3,243 | 30+ Members | 280 | 1229 |
| | | <29 Members | 719 | |
| POW/MIA | 64,898 | 30+ Members | 1229 | 280 |
| | | <29 Members | 567 | 909 |
| AID TO VOITURE | 197,042 | 30+ Members | 280 | 217 |
| | | <29 Members | 909 | 2719 |



**GRAND
DU
GEORGIA**



**GRAND
DU
GEORGIA**

GRAND CHEF DE TRAIN



And now it is Winter!

If you missed the recent Grand Promenade in Athens you missed a GREAT time. A fun time was had by all!!

For the membership year 2014-15 Grand du Georgia will have two Grand Chef de Trains. They are: myself from Voiture 1226 and Tommy Fordham from Voiture 567. We will be responsible for membership and anything else the Grand Chef needs us to handle. Our contact information is below and can be found on the Grand du Georgia website www.granddugeorgia.org.

Our prospective Voitures of responsibility are:

Michael Bolig: VL4, VL217, V280, V402, VL1226, VL1229, VL1317, VL1597 & VL11631

Email: mebolig@att.net Cell Phone: 573-842-8312, Home Phone: (864) 647-7122

Tommy Fordham: VL499, VL567, VL711, VL719, VL867, VL909 & VL1145

Email: tomfor44@gmail.com Cell Phone: (912) 507-2271

We have our responsibilities however; if you need anything please don't hesitate to contact either of us!!

We are looking forward to a great, productive year and are at your service. Our Grand Aumonier, Nick Nicholson, issued a challenge that we all sign up ONE (1) veteran this year!! So let us ALL step up to the challenge and help Grand du Georgia be a better Grand.

Until next time, we wish everyone safe travels. See you at the Petite in August!!

Yours in Service,

Michael Bolig
 Grand Chef de Train
mebolig@att.net
 (573) 842-8312 Cell

Tommy Fordham
 Grand Chef de Train
tomfor44@gmail.com
 (912) 507-2271

You know. . . time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went or how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is... the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go . I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses and where did my youth go? I remember well...seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like. But now when I look at my friends, some are in better and some worse shape than me...but, I see the great change...Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...We are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be. ! I'm not sure how long it will last, but this I know, that when it's over... its over. Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime. So, Make it a fantastic one. Live it well! Enjoy today! Do something fun! Be Happy! Be thankful! Have a great day.
 Remember "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.

VOITURE 1317

Chef de Gare Tom Reesman

Greetings from Gainesville! The BIG new for us here in Gainesville has just been released from the Grand Promenade in Athens. Gainesville and Voiture 1317 has again been given the opportunity to excel. We have been given the Petite Cheminot for the Grand du Georgia. The Petite will be held at the VFW in Gainesville on the 10th of August 2014. Lunch will be served promptly at 1200 and the Cheminot will follow at 1300. Voyageur Leon Marable is again generously coordinating for the meal. We ask that if you are attending the Promenade and eating the meal that you provide an accurate list of your Voiture's attendees and meal consumers before the Petite. We will only have food available for those that let us know you are eating. Sorry we have to do it this way, last year we had to throw away 60 meals worth. Our Voiture cannot afford to do that again. The VFW in Gainesville will be open to all the Grand's members and guests on Saturday 9 August as well. So come to Gainesville early and enjoy some fun and friendship. This Voiture has been busy with the few folks we have. We have participated with our Train in the Chicken Parade in Gainesville. The Train was put to good use for Memorial Day as we had a good turnout of members and guests for the Parade. We have the Train ready to participate in the 4th of July Activities in Gainesville. We had four members that just returned from the Grand Promenade in Athens. Our promenades are held on the third Monday of each month at 1830 at VFW Post 8452 in Gainesville. Please drop by and visit. We look forward to seeing you all at the Petite in August.

RECRUIT 'EM
WRECK 'EM
REINSTATE 'EM

VOITURE 909

Chef de Gare Nick Nicholson

Greetings from South Georgia. We are busy getting ready for some harvest parades and local celebrations. Believe it or not we have "Gnat Days, Mule Days, and a Rattlesnake Roundup" celebrations with parades, cookouts and general fun making. We plan on taking the Loci to a couple of them and then it is "Peanut Proud, Pecan Harvest" and the Watermelon parade that took place on the weekend of the Grand. Looking forward to seeing some of you at Petite in Gainesville and then on to Nationale. If you do not have plans for Veterans Day, you 'all come on down to Albany where we will have Veterans Breakfast at 0700 and then dedication of the Korean War Memorial at 1100 at Veterans Park. And yes "Dear Abby" we are planning a fish fry later in the sum-

VOITURE 499

Chef de Gare Paul Williams

GARDE—VOUS
 VOYAGEURS & DAMES

In June we enjoyed our annual picnic of hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks. Hospitality started at 6:30 PM and the meal followed at 7:00. If you weren't there you missed some yummy food! There was no regular Promenade or Rendezvous, just fun and fellowship. The July Promenade and Rendezvous will be Tuesday, July 8th. Come enjoy a great meal prepared by our super chef/s at 7:10 PM! The Promenade will begin promptly at 8:00 PM and include Induction ceremonies for our new Officers. Be sure to attend and support our new Officers! We are starting a new, fresh, Fraternal year and all Officers and Voyageurs will have an opportunity to lead our Voiture to new and interesting activities! All it takes is getting involved! And you could have fun!

PC Kenneth M. Lucier



Best Wishes to all the Voyageurs and Dames of
THE GRANDE DU GEORGIA
The Sweet Peach State



MIKE WOOD
 Candidate for Chef de Chemin de Fer 2015

BREAKING NEWS



There is a new Voiture in Georgia. The number 4 was awarded to Etowah Valley Voiture Locale on June 25th, 2014. The number four is very fitting since Georgia was the fourth state in the Union. *(Bet you didn't know that).* The number four was retired from the state of Delaware and was offered to Georgia by Voiture Nationale. The organizational meeting was held on July 15th, 2014, with the first order of business being to elect the officers that will be driving the train for the next year. They are as follows:
 Chef de Gare: Stanley Franklin
 Correspondant: Neal Myers, Jr.
 Commissaire Int.: Glen Thompson
 Chef de Train: George Shelton
 Aumonier: Wayne Abernathy
 Garde de la Porte: Tony Priest
 Lampiste: Jim Aycock
 Commis Voyageur: Ken Temples
 Avocat: Georgia Shelton
 Cheminot: Clyde Abernathy
 Cheminot: Charles Westbrooks
 Grand Cheminot: Georgia Shelton
 Directeurs to be appointed at a later date.
 Promenades will be conducted on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Dinner at 1800 hours with the Promenade at 1900 hours. Promenades will be held at American Legion Post 42, Cartersville.
 Institution of the Voiture and Installation of officers were performed by Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Passe Kent Molen and was assisted by Grand Chef de Gare Abbey Abbenette on July 22nd.
 Voiture 4 would like to thank Post 42 for all of their help and encouragement.
 By the time the next issue comes out there will probably be announcement concerning the forming of a new Cabane. The paper work is in the process.
EVERY VOITURE NEEDS A CABANE

THE FOLLOWING DONORS ARE SUPPORTERS OF GRAND DU GEORGIA PROGRAMS & "Georgia on Track"

NORTH GEORGIA VOITURE 1229
10/13

NORTH GEORGIA CABANE 1229

JO ANN ADAMS GAINESVILLE
1/14

RON & JANE MILLER Voiture & Cabane 217
2/12

JIM & SYLVIA BOGGS Voiture & Cabane 1226
9/14

Gary Cook & Pat Thornton Voiture & Cabane 1226
8/14

JOHN & BRENDA PIZZO Voiture & Cabane 909
2/14

ATLANTA VOITURE 217

GAINESVILLE VOITURE 1317
2/12

NICK & DEANNA NICHOLSON Voiture & Cabane 909
2/14

ALBANY VOITURE 909
2/12

DAN WARMACK V-2000
5/14

TOM & JANET "MOOSE" WALSH
7/13

AUGUSTA VOITURE 719
2/12

ROGER DECKER National Sous Dir Nurses Training

TOM MILLIKEN Grand Chef de Gare Passé Voiture 1145
8/12

LOGANVILLE VOITURE 499
2/12

TOMMY & CHARLOTTE FORDHAM Voiture & Cabane 567
5/13

SWEETWATER VOITURE 1597
4/14

COLUMBUS VOITURE 280
2/13

LAWSON SEWELL VOITURE 499
5/13

DOUGLASVILLE VOITURE 1631
9/12

DAVE & BETTY COLWELL Voiture & Cabane 719
8/14

LEON & GAIL MARABLE Voiture and Cabane 1317
10/14

VOITURE 1226 Jim Boggs, Chef de Gare
4/14



L'Editeur's Notebook

By Kent Molen

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MEMBERSHIP

As of July 10, 2014

Grand du Georgia ranked 34h of 54 Grands

| | | | |
|-------|-------|-------------|--------|
| | | GEORGIA | |
| 2013 | 2014 | Short/Over | % |
| 621 | 575 | -46 | 92.57% |
| | | NATION WIDE | |
| 30071 | 28404 | - 1667 | 94.46% |

GEORGIA BY VOITURES

| Voiture | 2013 | 2014 | % of Goal | Short/Over |
|---------|------|------|-----------|------------|
| 217 | 72 | 61 | 84.72% | -11 |
| 280 | 35 | 35 | 100% | 0 |
| 402 | 41 | 36 | 87.80% | -5 |
| 499 | 80 | 75 | 93.75% | -9 |
| 567 | 50 | 44 | 88.00% | -6 |
| 711 | 9 | 6 | 66.67% | -3 |
| 719 | 41 | 48 | 117.07% | 7 |
| 867 | 7 | 6 | 85.71% | -1 |
| 909 | 56 | 51 | 91.07% | -5 |
| 1145 | 28 | 28 | 100% | -0 |
| 1226 | 16 | 16 | 100.00% | 0 |
| 1229 | 127 | 125 | 98.43% | -2 |
| 1317 | 18 | 15 | 83.33% | -3 |
| 1597 | 23 | 19 | 82.61% | -4 |
| 1631 | 18 | 10 | 55.56% | -8 |

The demise of the Hooch Wreck!

It saddens me to report that the Hooch Wreck has been cancelled. After over 20 years of successful and enjoyable wrecks. It was voted at the Voiture 217 July Promenade to cancel due to lack of interest. With a meager start in 1991 it grew to a very successful wreck, gaining the reputation, not only in Georgia but from Nationale on down as one of the premier wrecks of the south. The Hooch has always been well attended with good feedback from the Guests. When Voiture 402 chose to give it up while in the process of dissolving their Voiture, I requested and was given a letter to be read on the floor at Voiture 217, encouraging and sending best wishes for a smooth transition. Two years of very successful wrecks were held at the Voiture 217 Chateau.

I personally had to back off due to health reasons, but I desperately wanted the Hooch to continue as I had been involved with it for many years. I guess all things must come to an end sometime. Thanks for the memories.

Shifting gears!

Big question this month? Do you want to be a Newsletter editor? Grand du Georgia is still hoping that there is a Voyageur out there in the Peach State that has the interest and enthusiasm to take over the Georgia on Tack. It is not a matter of me wanting to give it up, I don't mean to hide behind my age but as my odometer has rolled over 83, and the health issues that I have, I have no choice. I must say that I have enjoyed every minute of it. It is not brain surgery. I would do anything I can to make for a smooth transition. Give it some thought.

Are you going to Promenade Nationale in Virginia Beach? Time to be making your arrangements. Hope to see a good turn out from Georgia.

Until next time, keep it in the short grass!

LA FEMME MEMBERSHIP

Nation Wide Georgia ranks 24th of 38 Grandes

| | | | |
|------|------|-------------------|------------|
| | | NATION WIDE | |
| 2013 | 2014 | % | Short/over |
| 3284 | 3124 | 95.13% | -160 |
| | | GRANDE DE GEORGIA | |

L'Editeur's note: Support is needed to help supplement the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. If your Voiture or an individual would like to support this cause, make check payable to Grand du Georgia and send to Kent Molen, 11780 Ashwick Place, Alpharetta, GA 30005., so I can give you credit in the Georgia on Track.

Kent Molen
kentdm@comcast.net

Thanks this month to PGC Roger Decker and Dave & Betty Colwell for their donation for the Printing and Mailing of the GOT

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Georgia Grand Petite Cheminot:
Gainesville Aug 10
Promenade Nationale : Sept 23/27
Virginia Beach, VA

SUGGESTED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July: Birthday Month, Plan a BD party
Aug: Youth Sports Month
Sept: POW/MIA MONTH
PLAN YOUR WORK & WORK YOUR PLAN