

# Get'away Gals Gazette

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DESIGNER: LORNA HANES

## "A Picnic to Remember"

I watched the Weather Channel anxiously the week leading up to the campout. Every day it said 80% chance of rain in Eunice, LA. Oh no! What was I going to do? Would the GG's come? Would the Picnic be a flop? My husband, Rich – who is a big fan of the GG's assured me that everything would work out. Well he was right!



I arrived on Monday. The park was quiet. Too quiet. But that didn't last long. On Tuesday GG's started showing up. My heart was filled with joy and relief as I saw the trailers rolling in! The first wave of "Party Girls" from Texas were

here. Then Sonia Cahanin, Diane Tyler, and Judy McBane (my co-hostesses/helpers) arrived early to help with setting up.

Sonia had volunteered to handle all decorations. Thank goodness 'cause this is definitely not my forte. Sonia created the picnic atmosphere in the Barn with checked gingham style red and white tablecloths and brown craft paper runners on each table. Topping each off was a mason jar with pretty flowers and ribbons.

Sonia also created the "brown bag" Welcome Bags – each cleverly decorated with coffee

filters and stickers. Inside each bag was info on things to do in Eunice, the agenda, and a green Get'away Gals insulated tumbler. My contribution was the multi-colored nametags – designed to resemble the old Lakeview sign with bling around the sides.

By Thursday, everything was ready in the Barn for the getaway. We had a few sprinkles during the day but the weather was cooperating. Twinkle



lights decorated each of the poles in the Barn and string lights draped overhead to give just the right finish. Dozens of fans kept the place cool and the mosquitoes at bay. That evening the Picnic began officially with a "Meet and Greet" and Salad and Dessert Potluck. As usual there was way more food than we could all eat. Following the meal several of the GGs played LRC. Barbara Williams and sister, Denise Hanley racked up – earning their spending money for the weekend!



*We live, laugh, and love to get'away!*

Friday was Beach Day. The weather was threatening again with thunderstorms rolling in. Yikes!!!! My whole day had been planned around the beach and I was quietly panicking. A short shower and it was over. The sun was



shining again and the beach was open. Oldies played on the radio, the Limbo bars were set up, and the GGs played volleyball. The Lakeview Staff served burgers, nachos, daiquiris, and “shots” at the concession stand while the Gals swam or lounged under the brightly colored umbrellas and palm trees.



As the Gals played, Mudbugs Catering was

cooking up some delicious crawdads, potatoes and corn at the Barn in preparation for the evening Crawfish Boil. I have to say – those were the best crawfish I’ve ever had! It got awfully quiet as everyone enjoyed these Cajun treats. Second helpings were offered followed by Peach Cobbler. Renee’ Usie contributed Cajun jokes while everyone chowed down. There was plenty to eat and all enjoyed themselves.



Saturday was planned as a “free day” but that wasn’t happening as Sonia Cahanin had another suggestion. She wanted to go to “Fred’s” Lounge in Mamou, LA – only a couple of miles from the park. Fred’s is open only on Saturday mornings. At 9 AM a group of 30 or more GGs caravanned to Fred’s. It was crazy! Cajun music spilled from the front door as we ventured inside. A half dozen couples danced around the five-piece band as many other patrons looked on either from the bar, a cluster of tables or the cushioned bench along the wall.



Many were locals who come there every Saturday to dance. If they weren’t sipping Bloody Mary’s from plastic cups they were nursing cans of beer. Spirits were lively and everyone waited in anticipation for the establishment’s matriarch, 82 year old, Tante Sue.

Fred passed away about 20 years ago but Tante Sue, his ex-wife, still shows up. Tante Sue arrived around 10 a.m. and carried in a white cardboard box of hot boudin (no – it’s not donut holes) to share. Later in the morning she put on her purple velvet cape – made from Crown Royal bags – Mardi Gras hat and flag then paraded through and around the lounge.



The GGs had a blast as usual. Many of the GGs noticed that Lee Hallman danced every single dance with one of the handsome Cajuns standing nearby! How did she do it? When questioned, she said, "I asked!" hahahahah! After entirely too much fun some of us were ready for a nap. The afternoon was spent visiting other GGs, shopping, and preparing for the Festival of Queens contest planned for that evening.

Lots of the new GGs presented a good showing with the Sugar Cane Queen (Phyllis Eyre) and the Swamp Queen (Wendy Bott) among others really going all out. But the Texas GGs came ready to claim all awards! A panel of judges (Lakeview Staff) carefully selected the winners.



Claiming the awards:

1. Best Louisiana Themed – Gina Biekman as the Mardi Gras Queen
2. Most Bling – Trish Bounds as Miss Bee Havin'
3. Most Creative – Debbie Camp as the Dolla Genral Queen
4. Best Overall – Donna Teague as the Arachnid Queen
5. Most Hilarious – Suzonne Lawrence as Miss State Line, and
6. Most Beautiful – Melissa Cartan as Miss L Teaux

It was a fun pageant and although we couldn't all be winners – we were all Queens!

Finally (yes - there's more.....), it was time for an old-fashioned Cajun Barn Dance! The band "High Performance" rocked the house with Cajun favorites. GGs came prepared in petticoats and boots to party till the cows came home.....



It was a party I won't soon forget and I hope you don't either. Thanks to all the GGs who came to this campout in spite of the weather warnings. Your spirit, creativity, and willingness to have fun and be silly make you the best group ever!

A note to Dixie – We missed you! We behaved (as best we could) but carried on as only the ladies you would expect.....LOL!!!

Our official group photo:



Thanks again to all and see you down the road!

Your hostess,  
*Lorna*