



# Mountain Friends

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FFWNC Club Website: [www.ffwesternnc.org](http://www.ffwesternnc.org)

FFWNC Mailing Address: FFWNC, P.O. Box 384, Hendersonville, NC 28793

FFI Website: <https://friendshipforce.org/>

## President's Message

I recently received a copy of the following reprinted article. It was written by FF's founder and former President, Wayne Smith (1934-2004) and originally printed in the January/February 1997 issue of *Friendship* magazine. In these uncertain days, it is helpful to be reminded of who we are as an organization and why we do what we do.

*Nancy Wood, FFWNC President*

### **We Call it The Friendship Force**

by Wayne Smith

Periodically I receive inquiries from our members regarding the name of our organization. In particular, they ask about the use of two words that, in the English language, are not usually associated with each other: the universally acceptable and pleasing concept of **friendship** with the more aggressive word **force**. Since names are important to all of us, it is good to reflect on our name, The Friendship Force.

When The Friendship Force was established in 1977, the name was carefully selected. Friendship rather than peace, would be the primary concept. As individuals, we may not be able to create peace single-handedly, but we certainly know how to make friends. Furthermore, the underlying philosophy of our organization is that friendships across international barriers can be a powerful force in creating a more peaceful world. Hence our motto, "A world of friends is a world of peace."

Think about it: the force of friendship. Over the centuries, people of the world have dealt with their enemies by conquering or killing them – using what we call

in English "armed forces." We in The Friendship Force know that it is possible to deal with strangers and their differences - not through arms that shoot and kill, but through the arms of friends that embrace. Can we live in each other's homes, share each other's meals, play with each other's children, and still be enemies?

Therefore, one reason for using force in our name is to convey the power of friendship. But there is another reason. Force, in English, is also used as a synonym for army. Here again the association is accurate. Don't we want to be a friendship army.... a friendship force? When thought of in these terms, we see that the use of the word force can help convey that what we do as individuals does not stand in isolation but is part of a worldwide movement... an army or force for friendship whose goal is to use friendship as the means to achieve a better world.

So you see, I like the second word in our name, force, almost as much as I do the first one, friendship. By combining the two, we are able to create the image, and the reality, of the power of friendship - the force for friendship.

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## FFWNC Activities

### General Meeting – March 16<sup>th</sup>

The General Meeting at First United Methodist Church featured *True Ridge*, a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting Hispanics and others in need.



Their mission is: *"To provide bilingual and culturally appropriate services, resources, and accompaniment for diverse and vulnerable members of our community that need support in their journey towards self-sufficiency, resilience, healing, and well-being."* Melisa Escobar, Executive Director of True Ridge, provided a thorough overview of the organization and allowed ample opportunities for questions from our Club members.

Also discussed at the March General Meeting were upcoming journeys for the year, which are: May 2025, an inbound Fort Worth journey, September 2025, an

outbound journey to Western Michigan, and October 2025, a special outdoor journey that will include FF Clubs from Raleigh, Richmond, VA as well as FFWNC.

### Next General Meeting – May 18<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 pm Middleton Place Clubhouse

The May 18<sup>th</sup> General Meeting will be a combined event and will include a Farewell Dinner for our Fort Worth inbound journey ambassadors, to be held at Middleton Place Clubhouse. *The main dish will be provided at no cost, but if you plan to attend, please be sure to bring a dish to pass, along with your own plate, cup and cutlery.*

If you plan to come, please contact Harriett Hilton, Journey Co-Coordinator, *no later than May 5th* so enough main dish food is available.

### Happy Hour at Dry Falls Brewing Company – March 20<sup>th</sup> –



The first day of spring was well celebrated! Fourteen members attended, and all had a good time socializing.



***Please note: We will not have an April Happy Hour, as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in April is Holy Thursday.*** We will resume Happy Hour on May 15<sup>th</sup>, the location to be determined.

## **Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting – 10:00 am**

The next Board meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Henderson County Extension Office, 100 Jackson Park Road, Hendersonville, NC 28792. Members are always welcome to attend.

## **Pass the Spoon – Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 am Biscuit Head Restaurant – 1994 Hendersonville Road, Asheville**

Carol Mullen is our host for the April 9<sup>th</sup> “Pass the Spoon” lunch/brunch. Biscuit Head is about 500 yards north of Long Shoals Road, and is on the right-hand side of Hendersonville Road, traveling north.

*If you plan to attend, please let Carol know by April 2<sup>nd</sup>.*



## **FFWNC Book Club – April 25<sup>th</sup> – 1:30 pm Southern Streams Coffeehouse, Laurel Park**

Our book selection for April is *11/22/63*, a novel by Stephen King. Ellen Brazauskas is our host. We will meet at Southern Streams Coffeehouse at 1628 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue W, Laurel Park, NC 28739. Should you have questions about the Book Club, contact Gerri Gurbuz, FFWNC Book Club Chair, for details.

*-- The FFWNC Book Club is held quarterly on the 4th Friday in January, April, July and October and always welcomes new members. --*

## -- Journeys for 2025—

### **Fort Worth – Inbound Journey May 13 - 19, 2025**

The Fort Worth ambassadors will soon arrive, and you are invited to get to know them. The Welcome Dinner on May 13<sup>th</sup> will be held at Champa Restaurant, 437 N. Main Street, Hendersonville. *The total cost of the meal is on you, if you are interested in participating.* Please RSVP to Harriett Hilton by May 1st, if you plan on attending.

As noted earlier in the newsletter, on May 18<sup>th</sup>, the Farewell Dinner and the General Meeting will be a combined event at the Middleton Place Clubhouse. The main course will be provided at no cost to you, but if you plan to attend, please bring a dish to pass, along with a plate, cup and cutlery. So there is an ample amount of food for the main dish, please let Harriett Hilton know *no later than May 5<sup>th</sup>* if you plan to attend the Farewell Dinner/General Meeting.

### **Western Michigan Club – Outbound Journey September 18 – 24, 2025**

There are still a few slots available for this outbound journey. If you have never visited Western Michigan, this will be an excellent opportunity to experience life with locals. Please contact Ellen Brazauskas or Ginger Zemp for details.

### **2025 Mid-Atlantic Outdoor Activity Journey Special Club-to-Club Event – October 6 – 16<sup>th</sup>**

The Friendship Force Mid-Atlantic Outdoor Journey with Richmond, Raleigh and WNC is happening! The dates are October 6<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025. FFWNC will be the last Club visited on the journey, hosting for three nights, October 14 -16.

The hosting responsibilities will be less than usual and will provide a great opportunity for new Club members to give participating in a journey a try.

For details about participating and/or hosting opportunities, contact Sarah Poppenhouse or Susan Harvey.

## Club Member Birthdays

### April Birthdays

2 – Susan Gaston  
 7– Gerri Gurbuz  
 20 – Kay Manley, Jack Mullen

### May Birthdays

1 Dick Weaver  
 20 Gary Ader

## Newsletter Deadline

If you have Club news for the newsletter, please submit your information to Nancy Wood no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## 2025 Meeting Calendar

MEETING DATE	EVENT	TIME
Sunday, Jan. 19	General Meeting	3:00 pm
Sunday, Mar. 16	General Meeting	5:00 pm
Sunday, May 18	General Meeting & Farewell Dinner	5:00 pm
Saturday, July 12	Annual Picnic-- Mills River Park Pavilion	12:00 Noon
Sunday, Sept. 21	General Meeting-TBD	5:00 pm
Sunday, Nov. 16	General Meeting	3:00 pm
Friday, Dec 12	Holiday Party	3:00 pm
Tuesday, Jan. 14	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, Feb. 11	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, Mar. 11	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, Apr. 8	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, May 20	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, June 10	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, July 8	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, Aug. 12	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, Sept. 9	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, Oct.14	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, Nov. 11	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, Dec. 16	Board Meeting	TBD

General Meetings are usually held on the third Sunday of alternate months, starting with January. Meeting locations vary and will be announced on website posts and in the monthly newsletters.

Board Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month. Please check the FFWNC website and the monthly newsletter for Board Meeting locations.

### **Monthly Calendar of Events**

Third Thursday – Happy Hour at a local brewery/winery – Chuck Tokarski

Fourth/last Friday, Quarterly – Book Club – Gerri Gurbuz

“Pass the Spoon” Lunch/Dinner – Bi-monthly, dates and hosts vary



**FFWNC 2025 Full Year Calendar at a Glance**  
(Subject to change, as year progresses)

**Updated: 2/26/25**

<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>
1/14 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 1/16 (Thurs) - Happy Hour – 4:30pm – Trailside Brewing Company, Hendersonville 1/19 (Sun) - <b>General Meeting</b> – 3-5pm – First United Methodist Church 1/24 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm – The Buzz - - <i>Man’s Search for Meaning</i>	2/5 Wed – Pass the Spoon –12:30 pm – Taco Fiesta – Horseshoe 2/11 Tues – Board Meeting – 10am – Community Foundation, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, 401 N. Main St, H’ville. 2/20 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm – St. Paul Winery, Hendersonville
<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>
3/11 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 3/20 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm – Dry Falls Brewing Company, Hendersonville, NC 3/16 (Sun) - <b>General Meeting</b> – 5-7pm –First United Methodist Church	4/8 ( 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am – Henderson Cty Ext Office 4/9 Pass the Spoon – Biscuit Head – 11:30am Asheville 4/25 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm — <i>11/23/63 by Stephen King</i> , Southern Streams Coffeehouse – Ellen Brazauskas, Host
<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
<b>5/13-5/19 (Tues – Mon) - INBOUND JOURNEY – FORT WORTH</b> 5/15 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm TBD 5/18 (Sun) – Fort Worth Farewell and <b>General Meeting</b> – 5-7pm – Middleton Place Clubhouse 5/20 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am – <b>Henderson Cty Ext Office</b>	6/10 (Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am – Cty Ext Office 6/19 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD
<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>
7/08 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 7/12 (Sat) – <b>Annual Picnic</b> – Noon – Mills River Park 7/17 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD 7/25 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm - TBD	8/12 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am – Cty Ext Office ( <b>Tentative</b> ) 8/21 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD
<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>
9/9 (Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am - IAM <b>9/18-9/24 - OUTBOUND JOURNEY – Western Michigan</b> 9/18 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD <b>TBD (Sun) - General Meeting</b> – 5-7pm - TBD	10/14 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am – Cty Ext Office ( <b>Tentative</b> ) <b>10/6-10/16- INBOUND &amp; OUTBOUND JOURNEY – Mid Atlantic Outdoor Activity</b> 10/16 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD 10/24 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm – TBD
<b>November</b>	<b>December</b>
11/11 (Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 11/16 (Sun) – <b>General Meeting – 3pm</b> Election of 2025 Officers - TBD 11/20 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 1:30pm - TBD	12/12 (Fri) – <b>Club Holiday Party</b> – 3-5pm - TBD 12/16 (Tues) – Board Holiday Party - TBD





friendship force  
WESTERN  
NORTH CAROLINA

## Membership Application / Renewal

**Send to: Treasurer, FFWNC, P.O. Box 384, Hendersonville, NC 28793**  
(Separate Application per person)

### PLEASE CHECK ONE:

- New Membership w/badge \$65 **per person** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Renewal Membership \$50 **per person** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Associate (if you are a member of another FFI club and pay that club's full dues) \$15 **per person** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Year joined FFWNC \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday - Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about Friendship Force of Western North Carolina? \_\_\_\_\_

Friendship Force is a volunteer organization. Our success depends upon member participation.

### AREAS YOU ARE WILLING TO SERVE:

- \_\_\_\_ Board of Directors or Officer
- \_\_\_\_ Committee Chair (i.e., Hospitality, Membership, Publicity, Newsletter)
- \_\_\_\_ Journey Coordinator
- \_\_\_\_ Hosting – home, dinner, day \*

\*Please visit the FFWNC website at: <https://ffwesternnc.org/being-a-friendship-force-host/>  
to learn about home, dinner and day hosting opportunities. (REV 9-22-24)