

story IDEAS

JACKSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA • 2007

DID THEY HAVE WIRELESS INTERNET IN THE 1800'S?

Not exactly, but turn-of-the-century Dillsboro now offers free Wi-Fi via the West Carolina Internet Cafe & Espresso Bar. Experience a traditional Southern breakfast at the Jarrett House, circa 1883, then stroll the brick sidewalks of Dillsboro and its shops converted from Civil War-era houses. Then stop by the Internet cafe to enjoy an espresso or smoothie while surfing the World Wide Web and emailing your jealous friends back in the big city. On Friday evenings at the cafe, you can surf the web while watching vintage black-and-white movies sponsored by the Dillsboro Film Club.

Websites - www.westcarolinacafe.com and www.visitdillsboro.org



B&B OFFERS WATERCOLOR PAINTING CLASSES



Imagine learning to paint watercolors on picturesque Lake Glenville, the highest lake east of the Rockies. The elegant Innisfree Victorian Inn, near Cashiers, provides such an opportunity every summer. Writers on assignment are invited to stay at this relaxing bed-and-breakfast and participate in the classes.

Website - www.innisfreeinn.com

WINE & DINE ON THE RAILWAY LINE

The Great Smoky Mountains Railroad offers turn-of-the-century railway car dining excursions every Saturday evening from the Dillsboro depot. Guests enjoy four-course gourmet meals served on linen tablecloths as the train meanders the mountains. Complete bar service is available to complement the meal.

Theme trains add to the fun. Mystery Theater Dinner Trains run Friday evenings from May through November. Others include: Father's Day Beer Train (June 16); Wines of the New World Train (June 23); Old World Wine Train (Sept. 1) and Biltmore Estate Wine Train (Nov. 10).

Website - www.gsmr.com



PADDLE THE DAY AWAY IN MOUNTAIN SPLENDOR



T.J.'s Water Adventures in Tuckasegee offers alternatives to whitewater rafting. Options include: canoeing/kayaking on secluded mountain lakes, tubing and fun-yaking on the Tuckasegee River, and overnight canoe-camping trips under the stars. Rafting is available, but it is low-key on the Tuckasegee with Class I and II rapids.

Website: www.tjswateradventures.com



*Mountain Lovers Love
Jackson County*



JACKSON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND TRAVEL & TOURISM AUTHORITY

For story contacts
or photos, email
Craig Distl at
cdistl@bellsouth.net
or call 704.377.8622

FUN STUFF TO COVER!

These events are on tap in
Jackson County:

July 7-8: Mountain Artisans
Summer Arts & Crafts Show

July 14: Balsam Mountain
Bluegrass Jamboree

July 27-Aug. 5: Day Out
With Thomas the Tank Engine

Aug. 18: Songwriters in the
Round

Sept. 15: Dillsboro Antiques Fair

Sept. 22: Second annual
Tour de Tuck Bike Challenge

Sept. 29: The 33rd annual
Mountain Heritage Day at
Western Carolina University

Nov. 3: Western North
Carolina Pottery Festival

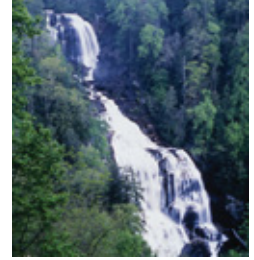
Nov. 10: Biltmore Estate Wine
Train

Individual Press Tours: If you are working media and would like to visit for a press tour, we will be happy to arrange that. Media may bring one guest. Transport to and from Jackson County is not included, most everything else is. For details, contact Craig Distl at 704.377.8622 or cdistl@bellsouth.net

SHHHHH...SYLVA IS BEST KEPT SECRET IN THE MOUNTAINS



A renaissance has taken place in downtown Sylva. Traditional commerce blends with touristy shops to make the downtown a wonderful place to visit. You don't have to be heir to a family fortune to shop the day away in Sylva. There's everything from a department store to a bookstore to an old-fashioned soda fountain at Bradley's General Store. You can even get a hand-rolled cigar or hand-dipped ice cream cone. Meanwhile, the Sylva Tree Walk meanders 1.2 miles through downtown and features 44 different species of trees, including regional hardwoods and such exotics as a Ginkgo and a Japanese Red Thread Maple. Sylva's Art After Dark - an evening of arts, dining, music and good conversation - is the first Friday of each month. And, Metrostat Technologies even offers free wireless access throughout downtown Sylva.



THE SMALLEST POST OFFICE AND HIGHEST WATERFALL

Near Cashiers, within a few miles of each other, are the following landmarks: the smallest Post Office in the United States (1903-53), the highest waterfall east of the Mississippi River (Whitewater Falls, 411 feet) and the highest sheer rock mountain face east of the Mississippi (Whiteside Mountain, 4,930 feet).

THE CHEROKEE WORD FOR 'HEAVEN'

Galvladi is the Cherokee word for 'heaven'. The new Galvladi Inn on a mountain top near Sylva is about as close to heaven as you can get. This upscale inn opened in 2006 and is well-appointed in every way. If you don't mind driving a steep, sometimes gravel, road to the inn, the reward is a secluded getaway on 250 acres with breathtaking views in spring and fall. A particular treat is the Lake Michigan room with its waterfall tub.



Website - www.galvladi.com

HIGH HAMPTON INN: THE NEXT 80 YEARS



For more than 80 years, High Hampton Inn & Country Club has welcomed guests to the former estate of Gen. Wade Hampton III. It's a great place to relax, enjoy the outdoors and "rough it" in cabins and rooms without phones, TVs or air-conditioning. But even the best places have to tweak from time to time. At High Hampton, upgrades to the rooms have taken place over the last couple of years, a spa has been added, and a new general manager, David Jones, has been hired. So what is the plan for the next 80 years?

Website - www.highhamptoninn.com



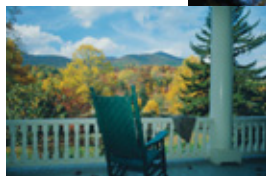
TOUR DE TUCK: FIERCE BEAUTY, FIERCE RIDE

Brave cyclists return to Sylva this September for the second annual Tour de Tuck. This grueling bicycle challenge traverses 105 miles of mountain topography with 11,000 feet of elevation change. It features 40 miles along the Blue Ridge Parkway, more than any other organized ride in the Appalachians. The final stretch follows the Tuckasegee River back into Sylva, hence the name, Tour de Tuck. (There's also a 60-mile ride for intermediates). Writers are invited to participate in the event, cover the event or even volunteer at aid station or with a support vehicle.

Website - www.tourdetuck.com

BALSAM MOUNTAIN INN TURNS 100 IN 2008

The historic Balsam Mountain Inn turns 100 in 2008, so now's a great time to work on an advance piece. The inn is on the National Register of Historic Places and very unique. It was built to serve guests arriving at the now-defunct Balsam Depot, reportedly the highest railway station on the east coast at 3,551 feet. Folks would come to escape steamy Southern summers and bring their railroad trunks, hence the hallways are eight feet wide. The inn was refurbished in the early 1990s and those wide halls also serve as a gallery for mountain artisans. Hiking trails and restaurant on property; adjacent to Blue Ridge Parkway.



Website - www.balsaminn.com

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