



# The Arrowhead

1 November 2008

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## History of Old Fort

- Cherokee attack the settlers in McDowell County June 20 1776
- General Rutherford leads militiamen against Cherokee Aug 1776
- Davidson's Fort built Aug 1776
- Catawba Vale established 25 January, 1872
- Catawba Vale renamed to Old Fort 1873

## Oktoberfest 2008 "What a Show"

The Old Fort Chamber of Commerce held its annual October Festival October 3 on the grounds of the Mountain Gateway Museum. This year's festival included new Chamber Member Bouncin Kids inflatable rides that displayed their product to the delight of all the kids. Sky Island Campground and BB&T teamed up to offer great entertainment to children and adults alike. Jerry Wheeler the Chamber President was a prime target on the dunking booth. Pony rides, carriage rides and a special appearance by Marty the magician who spent Saturday mesmerizing all who attended, our own Nutsmeg the

Clown entertained the children as well.

The vendors who attended this year's festival had three days of wonderful weather and a record crowd of visitors, an hourly count showed we had 3,500 on Friday, 5,000 plus on Saturday and 2,750 on Sunday. The Sweet Stop Diner reported a doubling in customers on Saturday. A number of musicians including; The Dulcimer Club, Joe Berry and the Berry Pickers, Flying Rock Band, The Kindred and Skinny Legs and All, "a fresh young band whose members range in

age from 13 to 18 provided music. A special presentation was made to kick off the NC Step program, in attendance was Senator Queen, Representative Gillespie, Mayor Norton and several Aldermen.

A pie eating contest was a fun event, ending with members of the Chamber of Commerce finishing up with pie in the face. Winners did waddle away with full tummies and cash in their pockets.

Ethan Allen Pine Valley Plant, donated two fine furniture pieces, Charles

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## New Plaques for Members

New plaques will be given out to all members during the December Meeting/Dinner. The plaques are made from one inch thick hardwood cut out into the shape of an arrowhead, they are then laser engraved with the Chamber/Town Logo. The

wood plaques were graciously donated by Ronnie Hartwell at Ethan Allen Pine Valley Division. They were then engraved by new member Emerald Wolf from Burnsville. These plaques have more meaning than just another plaque. They were

made from scrap wood at Ethan Allen and engraved by a member of the chamber, nothing came from overseas or from outside of our area. Make sure to come to the December dinner the plaques will be waiting for you.

## Oktoberfest (cont)

Kesler of Black Mountain made the winning bid on the table. The Old Fort Chamber could not put this festival together without the help and support of the following businesses; Sweet Stop Diner, ERA Mountain View Properties, Gibbs True Value Hardware, Old Fort Woodworking, Frisbee's Galaxy, BB&T, Catawba Falls Campground, Ethan Allen, Inc., McDonalds, Carriage House Door Co., Streak Free Cloth, United Services Credit Union, Sky Island Campground, Swickle Technologies. Boxcar Concierge Service and special thanks to Tony Yacovelli, Bill and Debbie Bach and the Mountain Gateway Museum.

The annual "Duck Race" was held on the

banks of Mill Creek. The ducks are purchased for \$3, each with a number on their heads. The ducks are dropped from the bridge and float down the river past the museum, chamber members are in the water under the small wooden bridge catching 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners. Winners were Brent Holifield 1<sup>st</sup>, Charlie Kesler 2<sup>nd</sup> and Janice Hoyle 3<sup>rd</sup>.

More pictures and information can be found on the Old Fort Chamber website [www.oldfortchamber.com](http://www.oldfortchamber.com), or by calling 828-668-7223.



## History of Old Fort Part 2 1700-1800 by Anne Swann

When the struggle for control of North America erupted into the French and Indian War, both the English and the French contended for the support of the Cherokee Nation. Because of their already growing hostility toward the English settlers, most Cherokees allied themselves with the French. It was during this period that the few intrepid pioneers, who had already established themselves in present day McDowell County, began to construct forts for protection against the Cherokee. Perhaps two of the more than one dozen McDowell County forts were constructed during this time period; Cathey's Fort near present day Woodlawn, and McDowell's Fort near Pleasant Gardens. The twenty-year span between the advent of the French and Indian War (or the Cherokee Wars, as this conflict is often called) and the American Revolution was fraught with continued hostilities between Indian and settler. By the spring of 1776, while the increasing number of local settlers considered their break from England's rule, the Cherokee were turning up the

heat on the frontier. - The British government forbade settlement beyond the Blue Ridge, primarily because they feared losing control of the independent minded Ulster Scot settlers. All land north and west of the mountains was designated as Cherokee territory. Encouraged by the Crown to continue attacks, the Cherokee believed as they were told, that their land would eventually be returned to them. Several forays into the area left settlers dead in Montford Cove, Turkey Cove, Crooked Creek and Nebo. A string of forts began to spring up throughout the territory, some hastily constructed; some mere fortifications of dwelling houses.

*In the early of 1776 a combination was entered into by the British Loyalist/Tories and Indians for a general massacre of the Whig/Patriots residing along the frontiers from North Carolina to Georgia. The Tories set up peeled poles at their houses, around which white cloth was wrapped. These were called passovers. On June 20, in accordance with previous arrangements, the Indians commenced the work of death among the Whigs, but the Tories sat under their passovers in safety. To this, however, there was one exception. Capt. James Ford, who resided on the Enoree River at a place called the Canebrake, was killed while sitting under his passover. His wife was also killed and his two daughters taken captives. It is supposed that the Indians were instigated into the commission of these horrible atrocities by the arts of John Stuart and Richard Parris, agents of the British Government, and that this work of savage butchery along the frontiers constituted a part of a grand scheme for the overthrow of the patriots in the Province.*



## President's Corner

It's been 5 months now and I am so impressed with the progress we have made as a team. We are working closely with the town and county government agencies in publicizing our town. We have increased our membership by providing needed services such as Internet advertising, public sponsorships and listening to your needs. We have teamed with our members to support events such as the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CCC at Curtis Creek, the opening of Point Look-

out Trail, the anniversary celebration of Frisbees' Galaxy and fund raisers for Davidson's Fort. I am most proud of our Oktoberfest celebration, which even with a smaller amount of vendors we had a huge increase in attendance, without the help of our participating businesses and volunteers this would have never happened. As I sign off I ask you to keep the Bach family in your prayers as Debbie recovers from

surgery, we pray she has a swift recovery.

Your President, Jerry Wheeler



Please come and meet everyone at the Annual Dinner on December 9th.



## Worthless Check Procedure in McDowell

The Chamber contacted Brenda Grant who is the Worthless Check Program coordinator. Many of us businessmen have had our fair share of bad checks but many of us don't know the proper procedure in collecting these debts. Here is the procedure as outlined by Brenda Grant who can be reached at 652-2182:

1. Business/check taker receives "returned check" from bank
2. Check taker attempts to collect from writer and com-

pletes documentation.

3. Check taker brings check, affidavit, register letter return receipt, and request for participation to Worthless Checks office
4. Worthless Checks coordinator notifies check writer of referral and offers program.
5. Writer brings exact amount of funds and invoice to the Cashier in the Clerk of Court's Office in the appropriate form:

6. Clerk's office distributes funds to merchant and state and notifying the Worthless Checks coordinator of payment completion.
7. If payment is not made at the appropriate time: Worthless Checks coordinator request process from the magistrate on the taker's behalf. Upon issuance of process, the check is out of the Worthless Checks program and is part of the criminal system.

Forms can be downloaded from our website.



*With every ticket sold for the dinner you will have a chance to win an Ethan Allen Dinning Room Buffet, donated by Ethan Allan Pine Valley Division.*

## Meeting/Dinner December 9

The Annual Chamber of Commerce Meeting and Holiday Dinner will be held on Tuesday December 9th, 2008 at the Crooked Creek Fire Department, beginning at 6:30pm. This year we are extending an invitation to all local businesses, both members and non-members. We are charging a small fee of \$10.00 per person. The Chamber has an active evening planned including a live perform-

ance by our local Old Fort dulcimer musicians. The business portion of the meeting will be conducted prior to our evening meal and will include: an introduction from the Chamber President, Treasurer's report and budget review, and a brief overview of the local economic climate of Western NC counties, committee reports on accomplishments, and future projects presently under consideration. Following dinner

and entertainment we will present all members with newly designed Old Fort Chamber of Commerce plaques. To follow, comments from our local governing officials, status of the Davidson's Fort Project, and an open forum to discuss any ideas that might perhaps benefit the businesses in our community.

We ask that you join us in our celebration of a successful 2008! Bring your appetite, holiday cheer & any ideas you would like to present. We hope to see you December 9th



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The Old Fort Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to improve the business environment and quality of life in our region. We act as the catalyst through which the mutual interests of all segments of the community work together for the common good of all our residents.

The OFCC serves and promotes:

- Small business
- Local industry
- McDowell County; acts to address, foster and promote positive economic growth

The OFCC provides a vision for the future of our community through various programs and daily activities, some of which are highlighted on our web site.

The Old Fort Chamber of Commerce would like to say *Thanks* to all!

**We thank all** of the Musicians who put on such fine performances. Your donation of time on stage is enjoyed by all. Our area really is blessed with so many talented musicians. Thank you for supporting Old Fort's Oktoberfest!

**We thank all** of the Donors who donate such great arts and crafts for the Raffle Ticket items and Ethan Allen's donation to the Silent Auction. Your generous donations go a long way in helping the Chamber put on a quality festival for the people of McDowell County and beyond!

**We thank** our Local Media Organizations as well, for helping us advertise and promote the festival. Your coverage of Old Fort Chamber of Commerce events throughout the year helps bring folks to McDowell County from all over western North Carolina!

**We thank** Everyone who attends each year's Festival! Your presence helps maintain the home town atmosphere of Old Fort's Oktoberfest!

**And to you the volunteer**, our most precious asset, no matter what else we do, nothing can be accomplished without your time and effort as a volunteer. To you we offer our deepest thanks for a job well done.



## OLD FORT FOXTROTTERS



221 Properties, Inc. Gateway Mtn.  
Appalachian Outhouse, INC  
BB&T  
Bouncin' Kids LLC  
Boxcar Concierge  
Carriage House Door Company  
Catawba Falls Campground  
Catawba Properties  
Catawba Vale Café  
Columbia Carolina  
Custom Shirts & Embroidery  
Davidson's Fort Historic Park, Inc  
Sue Ann Dubose  
ERA Mountain View Properties  
Ethan Allen, Inc. Pine Valley  
Family Pharmacy  
Four Oaks Seafood & More  
Frisbee's Galaxy  
Gibbs True Value Hardware  
Go-Forth Pest Control  
Grace Designs  
Hardee's

## We keep growing!

Harmon & Associates Realty  
Inn on Mill Creek  
International Automotive Components  
Janesville Acoustics  
John C. Hall Electric  
Otis Keaton  
L&B Furniture Discount Outlet  
Magnolia Color, Inc  
McCall-Kirksey Funeral Home  
McDonald's  
McDowell News  
Carroll and Jennie Miller  
MoonShadow Personal Concierge Service, LLC  
News Bulletin  
Old Fort Golf Course  
Old Fort Insurance Agency, Inc  
Old Fort Model Trains  
Old Fort Tool Rental  
Painter's Greenhouse  
Panorama Media Group LLC  
Pepsi-Cola Bottling  
PRC Industries, Inc

Signs by Design  
Sky Island Retreat and Campground  
State Employees' Credit Union  
Streak Free Cleaning Cloth  
Swickle Technologies  
Tap Roots Stables  
Tom Johnson Camping Center  
United Services Credit Union  
Wal-Mart  
WBRM  
Westmoreland Funeral Home & Crematory  
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