

Personal, from Bob Burnham

Important Notice: This log mentions Seven Corners Travel Insurance, and one individual with that firm who provided a great deal of support to me and many other FMCA members. Unfortunately, FMCA has severed its connection with Seven Corners, and now FMCAssist is "powered" by Europ Assistance. FMCA has determined that the new provider will meet and exceed services provided by Seven Corners,

This notice has appeared on this page for the last three years to call attention to this very important benefit which is free with your FMCA membership. Now, I want to tell about my experience with the FMCAssist coverage provided by Seven Corners Travel Insurance.

On March 10, 2019, I had driven my Bouncer the 400 miles north on I-75 from Florida to Perry Georgia for the 99th FMCA Convention.

The trip north was an easy one, uneventful with light traffic, and I arrived relaxed at about 3:00 that afternoon at the Singles International (SI) FMCA chapter's pre-rally site feeling fine. I am a member of that chapter.

The next day, Monday, I moved into the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter, parking with the SI's. I probably walked about two miles a day over the next six days of the convention, using my Rollator walker. On Wednesday evening I had a nice dinner in the restaurant in the fairgrounds and then went across the street to the auditorium for the opening night ceremonies and the entertainment program. I thoroughly enjoyed the entertainer, and when it was over I got a ride back to the campsite and went to bed.

I have included the above to establish that I was feeling fine and was actively participating in the convention activities. Little did I know that the nice dinner I had in the restaurant was to be the last meal I would eat for the next three weeks.

My story of my involvement with FMCAssist begins on the morning of Sunday, March 17. The convention had ended the night before and everyone was preparing for departure. Everyone, that is, except for me. I woke up with such abdominal pain as I had ever experienced, which at first I attributed to hunger pangs since I had not eaten much Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, having come down with an attack of urinary tract infection (UTI). I was unable to get out of bed. (One of the ramifications of a UTI is a complete loss of appetite. Friday afternoon one of the SI's drove me to a nearby urgent care facility where I received treatment and medication to treat the UTI.) I pounded on the end of the slideout until someone opened the Bouncer's door and called out. I told him I couldn't move from the bed. He went for more help and we decided to call 911. We then called 877-202-4176, the number on my FMCAssist ID card I carry with my driver license. I was transported by ambulance to the Perry hospital emergency room where I received initial care, including two doses of morphine and a CT scan. It was determined that my condition was worse than anything the hospital (19 beds) could handle. I was transported again to the far larger Houston Medical Center in Warner Robins Georgia, where I was met at the emergency door by the surgeon, who had obviously been alerted by the Perry hospital, and carried into an office, not an examination room. There the surgeon informed me that I probably was suffering from a perforated stomach ulcer and would need to be operated on "right now," his words. It was 6:00 pm, I was in the operating room at 7:30.

Following the operation, I was placed on a "nothing by mouth" order (NPO). Three days later I was found to be bleeding intestinally and was continued on the order, while attempts were made to stop the bleeding with coagulating medications. I also had several blood transfusions for four more days until the bleeding stopped.

When they were sure the bleeding had stopped I was put back on full rations. After three weeks in bed and on NPO, the damage was done. I was unable to walk and even stand. Physical therapy was necessary, and, although I wanted to be transported north to Maine to be close to my family. I was in no condition to travel that far. and so a local Perry rehabilitation facility, Summerhill, was selected to prepare me for air transportation to Portland ME.

Now, for a word about Seven Corners Travel Insurance, the agency FMCA selected to manage its FMCAssist benefit which is provided for every one of its members free of additional charge beyond annual dues. Although I was not aware of it at the time I was in the hospital, David Shelton, the Seven Corners agent in charge of my case, was in constant contact with the hospital personnel involved with my care. In fact, David was my agent. He also arranged my subsequent air transportation From Atlanta to Portland and ground transportation to and from both terminals. He arranged for one of my daughters to be flown from Portland and travel by chartered car to Summerhill to meet me to travel back with me to Portland. All of the transportation costs were paid by Seven Corners as well as paying for the Bounder to be driven from the Perry fairgrounds to Portland by a bonded driver. FMCAssist is indeed a valuable benefit of FMCA membership and I am grateful and thankful for it, and for David Shelton. I am also indebted to Mitch Loiselle, a fellow camper at the Masonic Park in Florida, who towed my car back to Vermont. Thank you, Mitch.

After four weeks of rehab at Summerhill and nine more at The Cedars in Portland, I have been released to home health care for continued physical and occupational therapy under the supervision of a visiting nurse. I am getting stronger and am eager to get "on the road again."

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