



49 States Camped

## 2015 Skyline Blue Ridge RV Trip

Stop #5 - Misty Mountain Camp Resort  
Jefferson's Monticello  
Charlottesville, Virginia



10 Provinces and 1 Territory  
Camped

### Misty Mountain Camp Resort



Misty Mountain Camp Resort was a nice place to visit for our weekend stay in Charlottesville, Virginia. Fortunately, the weather cooperated on Sunday and we were able to visit Monticello. Lucky we made reservations because the campground was full with two large RV groups and the Notre Dame/University of Virginia football game in town. We had a campsite with 30 amp power and water hookups.

One of the RV groups was from Smith Mountain Lake, VA, called Trinity Ecumenical Parish. The church is three different "expressions" - Lutheran, Presbyterian and Episcopal. They are attempting to show unity among all followers of Jesus Christ, and the different expressions take place on a regular schedule. An interesting concept...

### Monticello - Thomas Jefferson's Home and Plantation



Thomas Jefferson took almost 40 years to complete his home in Virginia called Monticello. Your experience starts at the Visitors Center at the bottom of the mountain and a shuttle bus takes you to the front entry (above) for the start of the home interior tour. Because Jefferson died in debt, the home and plantation and all of the contents were sold to pay off the bills. The Levy family preserved the home and plantation and eventually a foundation was formed to re-purchase the home. It is the only U. S. President's home that is a registered World Heritage Site.

## Monticello (continued)



Just prior to boarding the shuttle, you get to meet a life size bronze statue of Thomas himself (left). The most popular photographed picture of Monticello is taken from the backyard (center) which highlights the octagonal dome of the main room in the home. The family graveyard is a short walk from Monticello where Jefferson is buried in a very simple grave site (right).



Jefferson used his garden (above) not only as food for the family, but to experiment in hundreds of different crops. He kept copious notes of his plantings, care, and yields. His view of the area from the garden / backyard area is spectacular.



No photography is allowed inside the home, but the "dependencies" (services) area is considered "outdoors". It was built below the main floor so servants and family could stay out of the weather by using a tunnel system (middle left) going to the kitchens, stables (left), wine cellar (middle right) or the privy (right).

While he spent 33 years in public service: delegate to the Virginia General Assembly, U.S. Congress, governor of Virginia, minister to France, secretary of state, vice-president, and president from 1801-1809, his epitaph remembers only three accomplishments - author of the Declaration of Independence (including the ideals of "all men are created equal" and have a right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"), author of the Virginia statute for religious freedom, and Father of the University of Virginia.

**Tom, Sally and Valentine - The Tropical Trio**  
**Next Stop - Western Village RV Park, Carlisle (Harrisburg), Pennsylvania**