



May 2020 Newsletter

http://piedmontunit.wbcci.net/welcome/

Region 3, Unit 161

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May 2020 President's Report

Here we are again another month without a rally or caravan. I am running out of ideas to share with you.

The questions about what is approved and what is not approved from WBCCI has distilled. Mona Heath and Jay Thompson were kind enough to answer my questions about caravans. Gaile and I were signed up for a couple of caravans in 2020. We received conflicting directions from the caravan leaders. The caravan leaders had several teleconferences to decide what the policy should be. Mona provided the following:

Region Officers are working with their local clubs in support of the EC recommendation to cancel all planned events for at least the next 60 days, or longer as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Currently, seven (7) of our 12 region rallies have been cancelled or have not yet been scheduled, with the remaining five (5) scheduled between mid-July through late-October. Jay Thompson, International Caravan Standing Committee Chair, is in close contact with Caravan Leaders and posted an update on Facebook last Friday. Following is an excerpt of that post: "We are not planning to cancel every national caravan at this time as some are scheduled many months away. We are monitoring the timing and possible effects of government recommendations and directives as well as a safe and common sense appraisal of travel on the caravan. "Will it be a safe and fun experience for everyone?"

The Piedmont Airstream Club will be guided by the recommendations of the WBCCI. Anything that needs to be cancelled will be reviewed 60 days out.

The state of Virginia has opened campgrounds to short term, õa couple of nights to get out of the houseö travelers. I bet the phones are ringing off the hook at the reservation center.

This is good news. I did read about some of the restrictions and rules that Virginia has placed on the campers.

Rules apply to children as well as adults. Now, if you have children, they have been at home and out of school for at least two months. It would be understandable if you wanted to relinquish your parental responsibilities to the campground. It should not be necessary to delineate that children dongt get a pass on rules.

Then there is the revolutionary requirement that bathhouses must have õprovision of hand washing,ö presumably because the state got complaints about campers having to lick themselves clean. Why did someone in the state of Virginia rule-making department feel the need to document this? I bet they never used a bathhouse.



On the Southwest Adventure Caravan we found the above graphic in many of the National Park bathrooms. I did not know it was such a problem. Gaile says, õApparently there has been an incident.ö Maybe, folks had just been hanging out in the woods too long.

In gone too far when In down to scatology-based humor.

See you down the road.

Mike

MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR MAY, 2020

I hope you all are doing well and staying healthy. We have not been notified of any new members this spring due to the Pandemic and limited staff on site at WBCCI. If you meet an Airstream owner, who has not joined a club, please reach out to them and invite them to come camp with us in August at Galax, Va. Fiddler& Convention or in the fall when we know what events will be happening.

If you have not renewed your WBCCI and Piedmont Unit# 161 membership for 2020, please do so. (**November 30**, was the deadline for your information to appear in the membership directory.) Please renew <u>online</u>, go to the new website at <u>airstreamclub.org</u> to renew and charge your dues to your credit card. WBCCI dues are \$65 and the NC Piedmont Club #161 dues are \$15. You may also complete a hard copy of the membership form and mail the form along with your check to our Unit Treasurer, Stedman Brown, 5204 Fielding Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606.

Our current 2020 membership is 68 units (129 people) with 6 affiliate members. I look forward to the next camping event that we all can get out to and enjoy a new adventure together!

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Martin, Membership Chairperson

November: Veterans Day and Installation Rally

November 5-8, 2020 Co-hosts: Bogdan and Robin Gieniewski Andy and Karen Karakos

Fayetteville RV Resort and Cottages 6250 Wade Stedman Rd Wade, NC 910-484-5500 for reservations

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RAMBLIN' FEVER - A Note from John and Susan

My hat don't hang on the same nail too long...
My ears can't stand to hear the same old song...
An' I don't leave the highway long enough to bog down in the mud...
'Cause I got ramblin' fever in my blood.
Ramblin' fever, the kind that can't be measured by degrees...
Ramblin' fever, there ain't no cure for my disease.

A few lines from a song written by country music legend Merle Haggard back in 1977. Who would have imagined it would have so much relevance today. Here at our house, and very likely at yours, rambling fever is raging much more than the Corona Virus.

Since we are all confined at home, with the Airstreams tweaked and ready to roll but nowhere to go, with the yard work caught up, the Ahoney-doølist done, and rambling fever setting in, let talk aboutí

THE GOOD NEWS...

The WBCCI is alive and well! The õofficial wordö from International is when your State reopens, and you have Rallies planned, by all means move ahead. Just be sure to follow local guidelines and take ALL the necessary precautions and use some common sense. By now, that stuff has been drilled into your head. Be careful with the things we love to do as Airstreamers, share hugs, hands, meals, and activities. Simply exercise caution and keep your hands washed.

The camp fire circles just need to be a little larger.

MORE GOOD NEWS...

Soon we will have new International officers, and, we are very happy to report, a full slate of Region 3 officers, all set to take office in June. International President Mona Heath is finalizing the details of the voting and installation ceremony for the International officers using Zoom. Our new Region officers will be installed in June as well. More laterí

Fall will be a busy time in the Club as activities resume and new local club Presidents take the helm. 2021 is destined to be a fabulous year for our Club. More on that later as wellí

THE VOTES ARE IN!!!

Our new Region 3 officers have all been voted in unanimously! Thank you everyone for your support of these fine folks. We will be in the very capable hands:

President Bill Wild # 3615 of the Top of Georgia Airstream Club 1st VP Christine Baum #4814 of the Spirit of Virginia Airstream Club 2nd VP Jerry Peterson #4381 of the SC Coastal Airstream Club

Thank you, Bill, Christine, and Jerry for stepping up to guide the best Region in the WBCCI. Installations will occur in June, details TBD.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Be sure to take full advantage of the *Blue Beret* to advertise your Club activities. Make sure your events are posted to your club¢s Events website, six weeks prior to publication, so HQ will include them in the Activities section. The old manual method of mailing/emailing them to HQ is no longer allowed. Click Here for a list of deadline dates. In the absence of Rallies, use electronic means to keep in touch with each other and conduct your Club business. Stay connected.

TIPS, TOILETS, and VEGETABLE OIL...

Slick stuff? We have used food grade silicone for years on anything that moves on our Airstream and around the house. Doors, windows, locks, catches/latches, hinges, drawers, awning pivot points, and more. It is great stuff but our good friend John Ashworth #21189 of the Carolinas Airstream Club turned us on to something even slicker, a product called Houdini. Made for locksmiths, it is incredibly slick and even has a pleasant orange smell to it. You will like it. Look for it online. Houdini

Speaking of locks and hinges, be sure to keep your main door lock and hinges lubricated regularly to prevent wear. The door hinges are very susceptible to wear and extremely difficult to repair or replace. Same goes for the door lock. Houdini will work wonders.

And dong forget the perhaps most valuable yet most neglected item in your Airstream - the toilet! It has an incredible amount of moving parts inside, most inaccessible without tearing down the toilet, but a shot of either silicone or Houdini via the pedals will to help keep it opening and closing smoothly. (No WD 40 - it can attack the plastic components.) Shoot some onto the slide in the bottom of the bowl occasionally and work it into the seal to keep it clean and sealing properly. Vegetable oil will also do a good job here as well.

And speaking of toilets and vegetable oil, here is one more tip: Lubing the actual dump gate valves is difficult. They are enclosed and have no access without cutting into the belly pan. Spraying the handle/rod extensions does very little good and has no effect on the actual gate valve. Try this if you have stiff valves: First, empty the tanks thoroughly, and CLOSE the valves. Then pour about a half-gallon of vegetable oil in each tank. Drive to a shoulder or small drop off so the trailer or motorhome is tilted on the driverøs side. Or find a dump station where the pad is sloping on the driverø side. This will pool the vegetable oil against the closed valve. Pull each valve open and closed quickly several times so the vegetable oil can lubricate the slides and the seals inside the valve as it comes out. It will work wonders on stiff and leaky valves.

SHOUT OUTS...

There are many folks throughout our Region that have made a tremendous difference in their local Clubs. You know who they are, and you know them by name. So, when you see them, please thank them and give them that well deserved pat on the back, OR, drop them a note of thanks. Here are a few names that come to mind:

To Joan and Arleigh Wells, #11187 of the South Carolina Coastal Airstream Club for 40 years of membership. Thank you, Joan and Arleigh, for all your support and participation over the last 4 decades.

To Callie Rae Scurry, #17801 of the Palmetto State Airstream Club for 53 years membership. Thank you, Callie Rae, and Dwight (deceased) for all your help and guidance.

Add all these years together and that is 186 years of experience and the reason our Local Clubs are so successful. Nothing beats experience.

To Barry Fuller, #5500 of the Coastal Georgia Airstream Club, for your determination to keep the struggling CGAC alive and well. With help from your sidekick Ray Lewis, membership is growing and rallies are happening again. Thank you both for sticking with it.

To Greg and Linda Heuer #1927 of the Spirit of Virginia Airstream Club for your tireless work and dedication to bring the SOVAC (formally the Shenandoah Valley Airstream Club) back from the point of extinction. Now it a thriving Club. Dongt stop!

To Jay and Elna Thompson #805 of the Big Bend Florida Airstream Club for leading all Caravanners. A huge responsibility, thank you both for organizing, leading, and chairing the International Caravan Committee.

To ALL caravan leadersí Ray, Carol, Winston, Carol, Gary, Rose Marie, John and Cissy, Nancy, Margaret, Ed and Beth. Many thanks for taking the lead.

To Joyce Werner #5360 of the Tidewater Virginia Airstream Club for being a spark plug in your Club. Thank you, Bill, for getting her to the rallies.

To Tom Carmichael #2212 and Lew Brodsky #2585 of the Northern Virginia Airstream Club for the never a dull momenton at your Rallies. What a pair! Keep the good times coming.

To Marcia Thompson #5027 of the Carolinas Airstream Club for all your hard work behind the scenes. Quiet as a mouse, busy as a beaver, never complains, cheerful in all weather, never shirks a task. A real hero.

To C & S, our secret pals in The Southeastern Camping Unit, thanks for sharing your time and talents. You are indeed special.

To Alicia Rafter #4092 of the Florida Treasure Coast Airstream Club for your many years as Region 3 Registrar and for keeping a watchful eye on yours truly. And thank you, Mike, for hauling Alicia to the rallies.

To Roy Beavers #4392 of the Southeastern Camping Unit for stepping up above and beyond your duties as Region webmaster. Fabulous work, Roy! Thank you.

To Henry Knight #4826 of the South Carolina Coastal Airstream Club for being the ambassador for Region 3 as our membership chair. Thanks, Henry, for reaching out to all the new members.

To Larry and Debra Owens #1600 of the Florida Suncoast Airstream Club for taking on the huge responsibility of parking everyone at the International Rallies. Larry can put 10 pounds of stuff in a 5-pound bag, and remain cheerful doing it. And Debra keeps all the numbers in perfect order. Amazing work!! Thank you, Larry and Debra.

To Jim Cocke and Debbie Wood #4822 of the Carolinas Airstream Club for leading the WBCCI as International President and First Lady, and for continuing to work hard on many Club projects.

TO ALL REGION 3 NEWSLETTER EDITORS....

Christine Stockstill #6573 Big Bend Florida Airstream Club

Marcia Thompson #5027 Carolina Airstream Club

Casey Lewis #3321 Coastal Georgia Airstream Club

Susan Poole #3988 Florida Airstream Club

John Miller #1855 Florida Springs Airstream Club

Alicia Rafter #4092 Florida Treasure Coast Airstream Club

David Janowitz #6965 Florida Suncoast Airstream Club

Lew Brodsky # 2585 Northern Virginia Airstream Club

Melia Jacobs #6901 Palmetto State Airstream Club

Gregory Ray #5218 Piedmont Airstream Club

Greg Heuer #1927 Spirit of Virginia Airstream Club

Jack and Deborah Brooks #9314 South Carolina Coastal Airstream Club

Tony Laurie #2856 South Florida Airstream Club

Kate Coast #5778 Southeastern Camping Unit

Frank Munoz #8487 Tidewater Virginia Airstream Club

Clara Ellis #7343 Top of Georgia Airstream Club

Gary Brink #29944 Virginia Airstream Club

Thank you, newsletter editors, for the many times you make something out of nothing. No news is not always good news, especially when attempting to put together a newsletter with no submissions from members. So, thanks again for continuously pulling the rabbit out of the hat, and keeping us all connected.

THE REGION 3 RALLY NEWS...

The Rally was of course cancelled, so we did not get to see each other this year, but we have next year in Tallahassee, Florida.

If you registered for the Region Rally in Myrtle Beach, by now you should have received the Rally Booklet we had already prepared and printed, along with a rally ribbon. If you have not received yours, please drop <u>us</u> a note with your mailing address and we will send one your way. If you were not registered for the Rally, but would like a booklet, please drop us a note as well, with your mailing address. The Rally Ribbon makes a great bookmark.

We would be very happy to send out a booklet to anyone that wants one. They will give you a glimpse into what we think would have been an exceptional rally. And, just in case you are wondering, no Region funds are spent on postage. A huge THANK YOU to all of you that have responded back with your kind words, they helped more than you know. There has been a tear in my beer since we cancelled.

A FEW EXCERPTS FROM THE RALLY BOOKLET:

Region 3 remains the largest of the 12 Regions in the WBAC, with approximately 2300 members in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Currently 17 local Clubs make up our Region.

At least 2 past International Presidents are from Region 3. Jim Cocke #4822, of the Carolinas

Airstream Club, is the most recent. Region 3, spearheaded by members of our 4 Virginia Commonwealth Clubs, hosted the International Rally last year in Doswell, Virginia. We have hosted mid-winter IBT meetings, are home to 5 downtown rallies, and have members on key planning and leadership committees throughout the WBCCI.

Thanks to the efforts and strong leadership of our past Region officers, we continue to be leaders in the Club. The future is bright for Region 3, with a full slate of officers set to move us forward. There are 17 MVP\(\phi\) in Region 3. They are, of course, our local Club Presidents. Thank you, Presidents, for all you do. You are the ones that see to it that our Clubs continue to grow, remain strong, and move forward. You provide the great leadership needed to stay the course.

Thank you, members, for hitching up and making the trip, for without you, we would not be here today. You are the backbone of our Club and the reason we gather. This week is dedicated to you, have yourself a wonderful time.

Everyoneí please make yourself at home this week. Enjoy each other, celebrate friendships, reach out to your neighbor, meet your new best friend, honor our past, embrace our future, and remember that we are all part of the Airstream family and share a common interest. There are no strangers here.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2019-2020

This is your Region 3 team and the folks that keep our Region running smoothly. They are fabulous at what they do. Please thank them when you see them.

PRESIDENT: John Leake #268 Palmetto State Airstream Club 803-984-7225(c)

1st VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Wild # 3615 Top of Georgia Airstream Club

CORRESPONDING AND RECORDING SECRETARY: Margaret Van de Ree #2685 Carolinas Airstream Club

TREASURER: Jerry Hall #2693 Carolinas Airstream Club

REGISTRAR: Alicia Rafter #4092 Florida Treasure Coast Airstream Club

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR TO THE BLUE BERET: Joan Anderson #2056 Top of Georgia

Airstream Club

MEMBERSHIP: Henry Knight #4826 South Carolina Coastal Airstream Club

WEBMASTER: Roy Beavers #4392 Southeastern Camping Unit

CARAVANS: John Becker #2048 Piedmont Airstream Club

SAFETY: Bill Townsend #27070 Piedmont Airstream Club

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Julian Clements #224 Top of Georgia Airstream Club PRESIDENT EMERITUS: John Frerking #227 South Florida Airstream Club

Thank you, team, for being so great and so dedicated, and for your hard work enabling Region 3 to remain at the front of the pack.

Thanks to our great treasurer, Jerry Hall, for keeping the money accounted for, to Joan Anderson for ALWAYS coming up with articles for the Blue Beret every month, to Margaret Van de Ree for taking the ever so important business minutes, to John Becker for chairing the Caravans, to Bill Townsend for sharing his knowledge on traveling safely, to Julian Clements for keeping us ALL in line as Parliamentarian, and of course to John Frerking and Matt Hackney, for handing us a strong and vibrant Region.

SEE YOU DOWN THE ROAD!

Since the International Rally in Loveland this summer has been cancelled, this will be our last time together as a group with us as your Region 3 President and First Lady. We can tell you without hesitation that these last 2 years have been fabulous for us, and we would do it all over again.

We count our 2 years as President and First Lady a success, not because of us, or anything we have done, but because of you, and everything you have done. Region 3 is strong, and a leader in the WBCCI, because of your dedication and enthusiasm. You, our members, make it all possible. You have supported our Region by hosting and attending rallies, organized and led Caravans, you embraced new and exciting changes in the WBCCI as we modernize and move forward, you stepped up to serve when called on, and voted to approve new names and flag designs for your local Clubs to bring us all in better alignment with the goals of the International Club. The Region 3 õDowntown Rallyö series is in full swing. We lead the way in every category. We could not be prouder of all the things you have done. Because of you, we remain the go-to-Region, the trend setters, the leaders in the WBCCI. We are õthe Jonesö.

People ask us everywhere we goí ö What can I do to help?ö Our answer is always the sameí õIt is very simple: Keep coming, keep showing up, keep sharing the love; Support your local Club by attending the rallies. Be a leader in your Club. Be the spark plug, the cheerleader, the Pied Piper. Do not be afraid to think outside the box. Try new things, new places, and new ideas. Remember that variety is the spice of life.ö

Remember, too, the simple secret of lifeí <code>@Surround</code> yourself with nice people.<code>@If</code> you do, everything else will fall into place. Soí thank you, nice people, for traveling down the road with us these last 2 years, and for making the road so smooth.

Nowí Please *Donøt stop, keep right on goingí ö. We have more places to go, more things to see, and more things to do. And to help and guide us, we have wonderful, talented, and dedicated leaders coming on board for Region 3; the future remains bright. Please show your new team the kindness and support you have shown us. You will be pleased. Together, we continue to make Region 3 the best in the WBCCI. They will be installed and take office in June.

Just like our other past Region Presidents and First Ladies that remain active throughout our Club, we will always be available to help where needed, anytime. We will never give up our self-appointed positions as õHead Cheerleaders! Ø and will always be looking for you somewhere down the road.

Remember to practice random acts of kindness, make someone® day a happy day, and pay it forward when you can. Get involved in your Club, your new and fresh ideas are wanted and needed. Do not be afraid to venture outside the box or try a new route. Veteran members, be a mentor to the new folks and new folks, step up to help our veteran members. Together we will continue to move forward.

Thank you all again for sharing the love.

John and Susan



The Reverend Harold Gilbert Skinner age 92 of Hickory North Carolina passed away Friday, May 8, 2020 with his loving wife Nancy by his side. He was born December 20, 1927 in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, the son of the late Edgar D. Skinner and Lillian Heilig Skinner. He earned his Eagle Scout award and his pilotos license before graduating as valedictorian of Rocky Mount High School in 1946.

After serving in the United States Army Air Force from 1946-1948 he attended Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, NC graduating as valedictorian in 1952. He was elected freshman and senior class president and best all-round male senior. Harold started dating his beloved wife Nancy Foil during their freshman year where they worked serving family-style meals in the dining hall. They were married on August 1, 1953.

Harold and Nancy moved to Chicago where he received his Masters in Divinity from Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1956 and was ordained as a Lutheran pastor on June 10, 1956 by the North Carolina Synod. He served his Internship in Albuquerque, NM where their daughter Elizabeth was born. Their son David was born in Cheyenne, WY when Harold served as Mission Developer and pastor of Christ Lutheran Church from 1956-1958. He was pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Cañon City, CO and was the first manager of Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Hillside, CO from 1958-1962. Their son Mark was born there.

The family moved to Greenville, SC where he served as pastor of St. Michael Lutheran Church from 1962-1973. From 1973- to 1982 Harold was pastor of Wittenberg Lutheran Church and Director of Karl W. Kinard Conference Center in Leesville, SC. He finished his pastoral career in Cherryville, NC from 1982-1992. He served two terms on the South Carolina Lutheran Synod Executive Committee and two terms on the North Carolina Lutheran Synod Council. He was a delegate to two National Church Conventions and served as District Dean in the South Carolina Synod and Conference Dean in the North Carolina Synod. He organized high school backpacking trips on the Appalachian Trail through Camp Lutheridge from 1971-1979. He continued hiking with his fellow pastors for 48 years.

He and Nancy retired to Hickory, NC, returning to live near their beloved Lenoir-Rhyne College where they attended countless football and basketball games, music concerts and plays. He and Nancy were very active in the Lenoir-Rhyne College Alumni Association, serving as national co-chairs of the Annual Fund. They were both conferred the Trustee Award of Lenoir-Rhyne on August 5, 2005. They traveled the world as members of the Airstream Caravan Club. He served as President of the Piedmont North Carolina Unit, was Region 3 Chaplain and was a devotional leader at the International Airstream Rally, traveling on countless Airstream Caravans.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Nancy Foil Skinner; daughter Elizabeth Skinner (Chris Wilmot) of New York City; son David Skinner (Fae) of Dallas, TX; and son Mark Skinner (Lou Ann Cheslock Skinner) of Alamosa, CO. He is also survived by a former American Field Service Exchange Student from Sweden, Maja Jansson Åberg (Christer & children Magda and Simon) of Säffle, Sweden, and a nephew and three nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Ellen Rogers, and two brothers, Edgar D. Skinner & Clarence G. Skinner. A celebration of his life will occur at a future date. Memorials may be given to The Rev. Harold G. and Nancy Foil Skinner Endowment Fund, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, NC.

https://www.bass-smithfuneralhome.com/obituaries/The-Rev-Harold-Gilbert-Skinner?obId=13011042

Gregory Ray, KK4MHY Piedmont NC Unit, WBCCI Unit Corresponding Secretary 179 West Drive Winston-Salem, NC 27107

WEBSITE: http://piedmontunit.wbcci.net/welcome/

2020 Rally Sites:

January: Mid-Winter IBT, Oasis Las Vegas RV Resort, Las Vegas, NV

February: Winter Luncheon, Stedman Brown and Tami Lowe, hosts

February 15th at 11AM, D&S Cafeteria, South Hills Mall and Plaza, 1177 Buck Jones Rd. Raleigh, NC 27606

March:(hosts needed)

April 1-5:WBCCI Region 3 Rally, Ocean Lakes Family Campground

Myrtle Beach, SC CANCELLED

May:New Bern, NC, Alan and Jane Hvizdak hosts, May 14 -17

Make Reservations before March 1 2020, New Bern KOA, 800-562-3341

CANCELLED

June 20-27:WBCCI International Meeting, The Ranch Events Complex, Loveland, CO CANCELLED

July 23-26: Todd and Debbie Stroud Hosts CANCELLED

Galax, VA CANCELLED

September: (hosts needed)

October 22-25: Alumalina, Tom Johnson & Camping World, Marion, NC

November 5-8: NC Veterangs Day Rally

Robin Gieniewski, Andy and Karen Karakos, Co Hosts

Fayetteville RV Resort and Cottages

WADE, NC