

TARHEEL TRAVELER

NEWSLETTER OF THE CAROLINAS AIRSTREAM CLUB
THE 21ST CLUB IN WBCCI FORMED IN 1960

PRESIDENTS CORNER

PHIL DRAKE

Hello everyone-

New Year's Day was weeks ago and I still have holiday decorations to take down and store. Where does the time go? Speaking of time, it's almost time for our February luncheon at the Village Tavern. If you plan to attend, please go to our website and "RSVP" now. We must give the restaurant a close number of attendees so they can set up and staff accordingly. If you have already signed up but now need to cancel, please RSVP through the website and let us know that too.

Our club continues to grow and Dale Dowler, membership chairman, is one of the first to contact prospective and new members. Dale has been active (emphasis on active) in the club for 48 years and still is enthusiastic about all things Airstream and our club. Thank you Dale for your help in making our club successful! If you know of Airstream owners who are not members of our club, please share that information with Dale.

Have you renewed you Carolinas Airstream Club membership? The digital team will be updating members access lists for Facebook (members only) and newsletter delivery soon. We don't want you to miss out on important club information or activities. If you haven't renewed please do so right away.

Our Executive Board met on January 15 and discussed a number of issues and opportunities related to the club. One major improvement, approved by the board, will be our ability to take credit card payments through our website. Ed Hall has been working on this project after the board's approval last year to investigate the option of on-line

payments. After many conversations with the few Airstream clubs doing this, WBCCI, months of research and working through the many security and technical details, Ed has worked his magic and has completed a series of successful tests. A primary concern in this is security. One of the most secure and used systems for on-line payment is PayPal. Our on-line transaction payment system will be using PayPal which will allow club members to use their own personal PayPal accounts or a credit card for payment. It's taken a lot of hard work on Ed's part and this improvement puts us in a great position to more easily collect money for club activities. As a first step, we will soon begin to offer our club flags for sale on-line. Ed will be providing details on that and the new payment system in the near future.

Be careful on your travels and I will see you soon at the Village Tavern.

~Phil

2020 RALLIES

BRUE THOMPSON, 1ST VP

Hey Streamers – The Holidays are behind us, the confused winter weather is with us, and now we can look forward to our camping season. Hope you all are doing well.

First on the list is our kick-off luncheon at Village Tavern. We already have 42 on our RSVP list, so if you haven't done so – please RSVP so we can call them with a good head-count. At this luncheon, there will be a Host List passed around. I encourage you, if you haven't already, to please

sign up for hosting a rally. It is NOT difficult! So if you've already made your reservation at a rally and you see an empty spot on that Host List – please sign up. **BIG NEWS: Rally Hosts are exempt from the Food Fee (rally fee)!** So that saves a couple \$20 at the rally - OK, now you can consider Hosting, right? RSVP here: <https://carolinas.airstreamclub.net/2020-rallies-events-2/feb-luncheon-village-tavern/>

March 12-15 will be our James Island Rally down near Charleston. We currently have 20 rigs who have graciously RSVP'd. This always turns out to be a great rally – usually good warm weather with plenty to go/see/do. James Island County Park will NOT hold group sites, so you need to call early and reserve your site. **THIS PARK WILL FILL UP.** If you wait until the last minute, you may not find a site. Our website listing all the attractions at Charleston fill up 3 pages of great info, and don't forget to RSVP: <https://carolinas.airstreamclub.net/2020-rallies-events-2/charleston-sc/>

If a larger venue is more your cup of tea: Don't forget the Region 3 Rally at Ocean Lakes Family Campground in Myrtle Beach, SC on April 1st – 5th. There will be a few hundred in attendance and we've always had a good time at OL.Sites in HH and H are full, and section K may be full by now. Click here for more info and to RSVP: <https://carolinas.airstreamclub.net/2020-rallies-events-2/april-2020-region-3-rally-myrtle-beach-sc/>

Then on April 16 – 19, is our Tanglewood Park Rally, located near Clemmons, NC. Currently we have 12 rigs who have graciously RSVP'd. This park happens to be in my back yard, so it feels like we're camping at home. We usually do a group meal or two here, and make trips down to Old Salem to tour around. Plus, there are several great restaurants & taverns in the neighborhood. Tanglewood Park is holding a total of 20 sites for us, but the drop-date on those will be early March and then will be released to the general public (some other brands). **Only 8 Spots left!!** Click here for more info on how to make reservations and RSVP: <https://carolinas.airstreamclub.net/2020-rallies-events-2/apr-tanglewood-park/>

Keep checking Reserve-America for Highland Haven for September 17 -20: It's a treasure hunt to find a site: <https://carolinas.airstreamclub.net/2020-rallies-events-2/september-rally-virginia-highland-haven/>

Ok, I've run out of time and allotted space. You folks are what makes this Club so great, and now we're up to 106 rigs! You must be doing something Right. Keep up the good work. There are plenty of committee positions that are still open: Camping, Charity, Digital, and Welcome. We'll be passing around lists at the next few gatherings, so if any sound appealing to you – sign-up. Thank you & Have a great January –

See You Down the Road,

~ Bruce T

2021 RALLIES

BRUE BODENSTEIN, 2ND VP

Happy New Year from your newly installed 2nd VP. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

I trust each of you had a wonderful holiday season and are eagerly awaiting the 2020 camping season.

We have a great line up of rallies planned thanks to my predecessor, 1st VP Bruce Thompson. From what I can tell, it's important to make your plans early so get booked and join in on the great times planned. In the meantime, I have a few Airstream modifications to get busy with over the winter and there's that ham antenna I need to get strung up. Well, come on by the trailer in the spring and I'll show you what we've been up to.

I have been briefed on my duties in this first year and it'll be tough but, I'm determined to outdo Bruce T for 2021 ;-). I need your help though! Please contact me **NOW** with your fav "Rally Ready" campgrounds. Correct name, general location and any local "must sees" will be appreciated. If you have a contact name and/or phone number that will be a plus. Hate to ask, but if there are any spots you would *avoid* in the future, I'd like to know that as well along with a

reason or two. Btw, I'm told that in the past we have had a "Camping Committee" made up of folks who love to try out new RV parks and share their experiences with others. For me, I'm ready to reformulate that committee immediately and I'm recruiting committee members to help me create a memorable 2021 Rally season. Let me know if you're willing to serve! Email me at brucebodenstein@gmail.com. Phone or text works as well at 704 277 2018.

~Bruce B

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Just not in their Airstream!

Bruce & Claire Bodenstein

The Bodenstein's 50th Anniversary trip was to Spain, the Mediterranean, returning on a transatlantic cruise to Miami

We excitedly departed Charlotte to Madrid, Spain via JFK on November 14. After a relaxing (but sleepless) 7-hour overnight flight, we arrived in Madrid at noon the next day. Our *friends* who met us at our hotel, *insisted it would be best* if we did not take a nap, proceeded to lead us on foot all over the beautiful, vibrant city of Madrid. Thankfully, we were finally allowed to collapse into our hotel room while Madrid partied on.

The next day our friends took us on a road trip to Segovia which was home to a wonderfully preserved ancient Roman Aqueduct and a great castle.

Toledo, Spain was our next stop followed by a fun and comfortable 6-hour "high speed train" journey to Barcelona. How come we don't travel this way? After a couple of busy days seeing some of the wonder that was Barcelona, we packed and proceeded to the port where our Norwegian Cruise ship awaited us for the 14 day "sail" to the New World, ok... Miami! This was an exciting first for us.

A few highlights of our trip... Nearly trouble-free connections everywhere we went. The beauty of Spain and the friendly, welcoming people, we were feeling very safe

throughout the trip, generally pleasant weather from start to finish. It was chilly in Spain and how the Spaniards love to bundle up in their colorful scarves, shipboard temps were a real surprise and we spent lots of time sunning and reading on our balcony while watching the... well, ocean waves. We loved the restaurants and nightly shows and afternoon promenades around the deck. People watching in general was fun. A highlight for me was late one night at the ship's rail as we passed through the Straits of Gibraltar with Africa over my left shoulder and Europe to the right, actually seeing the "Rock" though dimly (I have a pix). For Claire, how about three weeks with no meals to prepare!

For our 75th anniversary trip we are thinking of maybe a river cruise?

~Bruce & Claire



ELAINE MYERS

Let's keep these members tucked up under our hearts:

Deanie Dixon passed away December 28, 2019. She and her husband were early and longtime members and were very active in our Club.

Gloria Flowers is dealing with a kidney stone – ouch! If it doesn't pass soon, she's schedule for surgery next week. Speedy recovery, Gloria!!

Continue to keep Trish Miller in your thoughts and prayers as she adjusts to life without Mike. The Ashworth's are bringing her to the Feb lunch at Village Tavern.

If you have any significant member events in 2020 you want to share (i.e., weddings, births, graduations, pets, etc.), or you want our Club to send our thoughts and prayers to those in a time of need, please email Elaine at quirkyquilter@pemtel.net

Remember...

"This is a wonderful day. I've never seen this one before." ~Maya Angelou

CANOPENER 2020



Look who headed to Canopener in January, 2020! Carolinas Club members Bill, Gloria, Carol and Ray!

Want to go to Canopener in 2021? First, secure a campsite at [Topsail State Park](#) through ReserveAmerica. The dates for Canopener are January 7 - 10 2021 but many will be there New Year's Eve for the Canopening pre-rally. The registration window is open 11 months *prior* to the first date you will be at Topsail so book soon! After

you get a campsite, there will be a registration form available mid-February on [Airforums](#), just search for **Canopener 2021**. This is a national joint rally sponsored by Airforums, the Southeastern Camping Unit and Arkansas Razorback Club of the WBAC. No membership of any group is required and there is no Rally fee.

For those arriving early, we will have Canopening activities from Dec. 30 – Jan 1. Next year's Canopener, Jan. 7-10, will have activities to be finalized later in the year but there will be music, biking, Ranger breakfasts & hikes, the world-famous chili feed and corn hole tournament, and a few surprises!

This is a *very* popular rally and fills up quickly. Campsite reservations can be made 11 months to the day through Reserve America:

<https://www.reserveamerica.com/unifSearchResults.do>

MEMBERSHIP

DALE DOWLER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Carolinas Airstream Club membership so far in 2020 is 106 rigs!

Our newest members (all are in Evernote):

- **John & Renee Hoffman** with their 2016 25' International Serenity have transferred to our club. They have been members of WBCCI since 2/1/2016.
- **Lee & Dawn Dunn** and their 2018 20' Caravel
- **Liz Leone & Jean-Georges Perrin** and their 2019 28' Globetrotter have transferred to our club. They have been members since 1/4/19

TECH STUFF

Levelmate Pro

This month I am going to review the **Level Mate Pro**, available here:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01FGGSWPW/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

I know some of you have this so send me an email if you do not agree with anything. When we camp anywhere but the paved, parking lot campgrounds, the trailer is never level. Most of us started with the Lego style blocks that stack, requiring multiple trips from the truck to the trailer wheels to install more blocks, drive on them, check the level, etc. Reliable, works fine, but you better carry enough blocks and it may take some minutes to left-right level.

Some have moved to the Anderson-style level that you just drive on and can raise your trailer up to 4 inches on one side, but you still must get out of the truck, check the level and try again.

OK, enter technology. The Levelmate Pro is a battery operated device that mounts on a left-right or fore-aft wall in your trailer and communicates via Bluetooth with your phone.

Note that this is now generation 2 with an on-off switch and a settable interval for automatic shutdown. Apparently Gen 1 ate batteries quickly. Still best to turn it off when not needed.

You install the device on a wall, level out your trailer the old-fashioned way, pair your device with your phone, bring up the App and tell the App that your trailer is now level. With that calibration it will now tell you with red-green and 0.1 inch increments, how far you are from level, left-right and fore-aft. It also has a feature that marks hitch position so you can quickly return the trailer to the level you were before unhitching.

So here is how I used it with Anderson-style levelers. Get to your campsite, turn on the device and bring up the App. Set the levelers at the tires, get in the truck and just back up onto the levelers until the App tells you if you are left-right level. Just about one minute

for the whole exercise of leveling the trailer! Way cool!

I did not find fore-aft leveling very useful as after you have disconnected, you are at the tongue jack and since I have a level mounted there, I just look at the bubble level when I am raising or lowering the tongue. Nevertheless, this is a useful and handy device.

One footnote because I cannot seem to master all of the capabilities of my phone. I found that my phone would not Bluetooth (BT) connect with this device or my Victron dongles when I was in a region with no cell service. BT is not supposed to use cell or Wi-Fi service. I found some settings hidden in a menu for connecting to devices that needed to be enabled, despite the fact that BT worked fine when I did have cell service. Enabled those setting and my BT connected.

As always, questions or comments to LSBRODSKY@earthlink.net

-Larry

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE!

Chris and Gina Fox full time in their Airstream and are attending the Xscapers Bash 2020 in Lake Havasu AZ. 400 rigs and over 800 people. They are near associate club members Karen and Dave Corbett.



2020 Club Officers and Directors