

TARHEEL TRAVELER

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

PRESIDENTS CORNER

PHIL DRAKE

What are you doing this winter?? A number of you are still camping but the rest of our trailers are all tucked in, nice and cozy, winterized and waiting for our first rally in March at James Island. So, back to my question, what are *you* doing this winter?

Perhaps you are doing some battery maintenance or maybe an upgrade project. Some of you have major projects going on and if so we would like to know about those. Regardless of what you have going on, here are three little projects that I encourage you to complete this winter.

- (1) Check that fire extinguisher. Take it out of its holder and give it a good shake. You should be able to hear/feel the powder shaking around. If not or if it's an antique, replace it. What does the gauge indicate? More importantly do you really know how to use it? There are a number of online videos on use so watch one of those to be better prepared.
- (2) Do you have a first aid kit onboard? More importantly, do you really know what's inside and really know how to use those items? It's winter, not a lot going on outdoors, so we have time to take a first aid course. Better yet, take a first aid AND CPR course. It will make us all a bit safer.
- (3) Check your smoke detector and CO detector batteries. Change those annually.

Admittedly it's rare that you will need to use the lifesaving tools above but emergencies happen when least expected.

Tim Almy shared this interesting BBC historical video on Airstreams entitled "**The Airstream Caravan**". <https://youtu.be/1O7xQFc1Jv0> it's 30 minutes of some really interesting old video and interviews on Airstreaming and caravans.

So, what are you doing this winter? We'll be camping again soon so get ready now for hitting the road!

See you soon.

~Phil

2020 RALLIES

BRUE THOMPSON, 1ST VP

Now that the monsoon season is over in NC... we can get ready for a great camping season. Our kick-off Luncheon is next week on the 22nd at 12:00 noon. Due to the RSVP count already, Village Tavern is setting places for 80 people. That is a wonderful turnout, so let's hope for good weather and fill those 80 seats! Phil will have a brief Welcome-To-2020 meeting, we'll tell you about the upcoming rallies, and we'll partake of some of Winston-Salem's finest foods. Actually, it may speed things up a bit if you would take a look at their [menu](#) and decide which entrée beforehand. For those who have never been before, the address is: **2000 Griffith Road** off Hanes Mall Blvd. (There are actually 2 Village Taverns in Winston-Salem.) See you there! Oh, and don't forget to RSVP if you haven't: <https://carolinas.airstreamclub.net/2020-rallies-events-2/feb-luncheon-village-tavern/>

Next up is the March 12-15th Rally at James Island County Park in Charleston, SC. We have 20 rigs on the RSVP list, and Larry & Pam Brodsky have graciously offered to host. I have heard reports that the campground is now Full (☹), but you can always check to see if there have been any cancelations – because that does happen. Larry & Pam have a wonderful agenda planned. And please [RSVP](#) for the [Maybank Public House](#) dinner on Friday night – promises to be a real treat. We're actually arriving a day early to enjoy the area. I'm looking forward to some warmer spring weather!

<https://carolinas.airstreamclub.net/2020-rallies-events-2/charleston-sc/>

April will bring us 2 great Rallies: WBCCI Region 3 Rally – 04/01-05 at Ocean Lakes Family Campground, Myrtle Beach; and, our Tanglewood Rally 04/16-19th in Clemmons, NC I've heard reports that Region 3 is FULL at OL, but again – there could be cancelations... doesn't hurt to call to check. Tanglewood Park is HOLDING 20 sites for us, but the last RSVP list shows there are **only 6 sites left**. They will only hold these sites until March 16th, then they will be released to other campers.

<https://carolinas.airstreamclub.net/2020-rallies-events-2/apr-tanglewood-park/>

Ok – I have to close now, but just 3 quick notes:

- 1) We'll present the updated Host List at the Village Tavern. There may be a couple of open spots, so please consider hosting, *and*
- 2) If you register at a campground for a Rally, please RSVP – it really helps the hosts with planning, *and*
- 3) GET THOSE CAMPERS READY TO ROLL!!

Oh yes, and one last thing: We'll have a celebrity camping with us at **Shining in Shelby** in May – Frank DiBona will be there! Now if you don't recognize the name, he's the guy who puts Airstreams in all kinds of famous art work, known for his images in Airstream Addicts on Facebook. Now you know ;-)

See You Down the Road ~ *Bruce T*

2021 RALLIES

BRUCE BODENSTEIN, 2ND VP

Hello all from 2nd VP desk,

It's early yet for the 2021 camping season but with lots of help from fellow club members, I've already made progress in identifying great sites for our 2021 Carolina Airstream Club Rally season. Might even have a new twist or two in the works. Please keep your ideas flowing my way either by text or voice to (704) 277 2018 or email: brucebodenstein@gmail.com. See you at the Village Tavern later this month.

~ *Bruce B*

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

CATCHING UP WITH THE ALMYS IN MS

SANDRA ALMY

We are settled in a small campground in Bay St Louis, MS, and plan to be here through February. The trip down took two full days and was uneventful, particularly because we started on New Year's Day to avoid heavy traffic in metropolitan (read Atlanta) areas. So far everything on the Airstream is functioning properly and we have had none of the surprises of earlier rigs. Most of the other campers here are snowbirds from the Midwest, many of whom come each year from Ohio, MI, IL, IN, MO, WI, etc.

We are comfortable, if still getting accustomed to the strange weather. We expected cool temps in the 40 -65 degree range but so far it has been much warmer and is 76 as I write this. We have had lots of rain adding to the water already in this wetlands landscape. We have had severe fog and even two days of tornado watches which thankfully passed north of us as the storms terrorized much of the SE. We have done some exploring along the coast but have not gone into NOLA yet. It is only an hour drive to downtown New Orleans and we plan going 2 or 3 times next week. Picking the best weather days since we have lots to choose from.

Monday we are going on beyond NO to Whitney Plantation which is the definitive and only plantation devoted to the mission of being the museum to slavery and the people who were caught up in it. The plantation is owned by a wealthy white attorney from NOLA who has made it his purpose to create this museum and we are looking forward to that tour. There is a good bit on the internet about him and Whitney if you are interested. Our next trips into NO will be to attend the WWII museum which is the official United States Museum (designated after opening) for WWII. That will probably take two days to see everything. Tim is a real WWII buff so this is right up his alley. Me, not so much, but I know I will be glad to go since my father fought in that war (and Korea) as did most of my uncles. I am very glad we visited Normandy and the cemeteries and museums there so this should be another good way and place to learn. We have not been to New Orleans for 30 years so much of what we are looking forward to is food. Fabulous food. Fancy restaurants are not necessary since it is all good. Number one on my list of things to see is the Garden District since I so love that area. We will be here during Mardis Gras but will probably just attend local parades and events since every small town on the coast has its own krewes (clubs that organize the Mardi Gras festivities), parades and events. Don't think we are up to the French Quarter Mardis Gras.

We are discovering a lot about the long and varied history of Bay St Louis and Hancock County. Won't try to go into all of that except to say that Indians lived here for thousands of years and the French explorers first settled in 1699. We spent an hour at the Hancock County Historical Society building yesterday and are amazed by how different this area is and always has been from the rest of the state. The Historical Society website is excellent and has a ton of info if you are interested. Nothing about this area was immune from Hurricane Katrina and it will always be a definitive piece of history. Katrina actually came ashore not in New Orleans but here in Hancock County MS, in the form of a 30 foot storm surge that continued inland over 8 miles. The town of Waveland was pretty much erased. Today, it is still mostly empty lots being reclaimed by nature. All of the beachfront

antebellum homes are gone. They survived Camille but not Katrina. In their places are homes on stilts to meet new building codes: foundations 21 feet above sea level at least. Bizarre looking. As this has long been the nearest beach for NO residents many of them are rebuilding second homes but it is still a depressed area 15 years later.

That said, we really like BSL. It is small with very friendly people who have a distinct sense of their history. Lots of loss here too but it is about 30 feet above sea level so fared better than other parts of the county. Definitely LSU territory so everything was purple and gold when we arrived and now has the addition of green to decorations for Mardi Gras. King cakes in all the stores and Mardi Gras purple/green/gold clothes and home decor everywhere. I need to get something for the trailer. Small.

Enough. As I said, not much adventure but good nonetheless. As I write this, Tim is at a rocket lecture at the Infinity Science Center which is the visitor arm for the Stennis Space Center located 15 minutes away. Since 1961 every rocket engine built for NASA has been tested here at Stennis. We tend to think of Houston and Cape Canaveral and Huntsville but there are several other sites around the US also always involved in our space industry.

For those who have asked, Velvet is doing fine. She has this down now and is settled into her routines just like at home. Pretty much eating and sleeping. She spends a lot of time out and about with us and is very cuddly. Still not gaining weight but seems okay. Just old. A lot of that going around.

Hope this finds all of you well!

Blessings,
~Sandra



ELAINE MYERS
quirkyquilter@pemt.net

Our Valentine's salute goes to President Phil and First Lady Cathy, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary!!!

I am happy to report that the groundhog did NOT see his shadow, which means....GET OUT THERE AND DO SOME CAMPING!!!

And from Susanne and Keith, wherever they are:



“THE BOBS”

In this club, we have Bob Clark, Bob Ealy, Bob Hughes, Bob Saltzman, Bob Seslar, Bob Rychly, Bobby Taylor, even Bob the dachshund!!

Maybe one day we'll get them all together and take a picture of “The Bobs!”

CANOPENER 2020

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 now 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.

This is a *very* popular rally and fills up quickly. Campsite reservations can be made through Reserve America: <https://www.reserveamerica.com>

MEMBERSHIP

DALE DOWLER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Carolinas Airstream Club membership so far in 2020 is 110 rigs!!

Our newest members (all are in Evernote):

- **Jeffrey Marlow & Rosa Rodriguez** and their 1969 25' Overlander
 - **Robert (Bob) & Carol Rychly** and their 2020 19' Bambi
 - **Rodric Lenhart & Lesliann Wysowski**, and their 2019 25' International
 - **Ed Pais & Ann Turner** and their 2018 16' Bambi
-

SILVER IN THE CITY

Mark your calendars!

The 2020 edition of *Silver in the City* on Congress Street in York, SC. will be April 23-26. This event is hosted by Terry and Annie Montgomery and John and Susan Leake, of York, along with members of the Palmetto State Airstream Club, a unit of the Wally Byam Airstream Club International.

ARE YOU A HAM?

Tell 021newsletereditor@wbcci.net

We have 24 amateur radio operators (hams) in this club, including the past, current, and the next two Presidents!!

Upcoming nearby state QSO parties:

- **SC - Feb 29** <http://scqso.com/>
- **NC - Mar 1**
<http://www.battleshipnc.com/nc-qso-party-azalea-coast-amateur-radio-club/>
- **VA - Mar 21-22**
https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2020_VQP/2020_VQP_Main.html

TECH STUFF

Larry Brodsky

Cellular

I finally had a topic request, thank you Susanne, for cell boosters. I'll get to that but this needs the broader context of cellular. At the outset, understand that I hate cell phones, wish they had never been invented, but they seem a necessary evil today. Why have one? Voice to keep in touch with loved ones or work(?) and text for the same things. But most use of smart phones centers around data.

Data is used for email, internet, video chat, Youtube, and streaming. I could not begin to cover providers and plans but today there are 4 major providers and many resellers licensing space from the major providers, at lower cost to you.

On camping trips, cellular data has become a strong alternative to WiFi because campgrounds are not spending the money to upgrade service, hardware and provider cost, to meet all of the needs of the campers. I also think that many people are trying to stream video at campgrounds even though advised not to do so. The end result is slow or intermittent service over WiFi. Also, you will camp in some locations that do not have WiFi so you will need cellular data to just check email. Note that the reverse can be true, as well. We stayed at [Mountain Stream](#) which has WiFi over satellite, but no cell service.

So, if you are going to use data on anything other than your phone you need to convert the data via WiFi to your laptop, TV, or other device. You can "tether" most smart phones to do this, but that is not an optimal solution for heavy data needs, anything beyond email. Enter a device called a "hotspot", which is really just a cellphone-like device without voice, keyboard, and display. It receives a cell signal and retransmits data via WiFi for 2, 6, 10, maybe even 20 devices, depending on the hotspot capabilities. You can buy hotspots from your cell provider, Amazon, and others.

Most hotspots are locked to a certain cell provider and you need a contract for data on that hotspot. Some hotspots are unlocked and you can obtain a contract from the provider of your choice. There are a few hotspots that purport to connect with any available provider. I am in the process of testing a [Mightywifi.net](#) which connects with T-Mobile or AT&T, no Sim card required and the bandwidth is contracted through Mightywifi easily. But, I do not recommend it. When it works, it works, but it just stopped connecting and tech support is poor. I have a reliable AT&T hotspot with a 3rd party sim card and I assume a Verizon hotspot would be as good or better in more isolated areas.

We all know cell service can be spotty depending on tower location, especially at remote campgrounds. Enter the cell booster, the best known of which is [Weboost](#). Understand if you have no cell signal, there is nothing to boost! But if you have a weak signal a boost can help. The booster arrangement is not complicated. There is an outdoor antenna, a cable going into the trailer to the amplifier, another cable from the amplifier to the inside antenna and a power

supply for the amplifier. But as is said, the devil is in the details. Outside antennas can be omnidirectional or directional. The distance from the outside antenna to the amplifier is critical and the distance from the inside antenna to the phone or hotspot is also critical. An omni antenna is most useful, because you probably do not know where the cell tower is located so aiming a directional antenna can be a problem. But, a directional antenna will give you more gain, if this is an issue. Weboost sells two RV packages, unfortunately the more powerful directional package recommends a distance from the antenna to the amplifier that is much longer than our Airstreams. If you get this too close you get oscillations that eliminate or diminish your signal. Also, understand that signal boosting does not increase the speed of data transmission, it just gives you more signal strength, which may allow data transmission where a marginal signal did not.

I have yet to stay anywhere that a signal booster would help, but I understand that people who camp out West have found these useful. If I were going to install one, I would install the outside antenna on my telescoping pole mount on my front A-frame, run the cable outside back to my satellite inlet, connect the amplifier inside to my satellite inlet inside and put the inside antenna on my dining table. This would require setup each time I camp, though Airstream and dealers offer a \$1,000 permanent installation. Nevertheless, there are oodles of bad reviews indicating that the \$500 equipment did not help. There are just too many variables to know exactly whether an installation of a Weboost is going to be good or bad for you.

5G is coming, which will be faster, but shorter range. There will need to be many more transmitters, small packages on poles. It is hard to believe that this will be much of a boon for campers until the infrastructure really built out after a number of years. So you may opt for a 5G phone for the city and a 4G LTE hotspot, with or without a booster, for your Airstream. Alternatively, you could just forget about this stuff and just camp!

As always,

Larry

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MEMBER MODS

DEB GOOCH #5490

Here is what Steve and Deb have done to their FC25!



Pull out shelf under the sink.



Double Deck Shoe Storage at the door. The wooden shelf is supported by aluminum brackets.

[2020 Club Officers and Directors](#)