



TARHEEL TRAVELER

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



PRESIDENTS CORNER

PHIL DRAKE

Since Cathy and I have been staying home a lot and I have been washing my hands a lot, I have discovered a very important fact. Vigorous hand washing with soap and water causes weight gain (that has to be the reason, the Cheetos and chips have nothing to do with this!). I am immediately switching to hand sanitizer to determine if that will make a difference. As this is a condition that may be “spreading” throughout the club, I will keep you posted.

On a more serious note, Lord Baden Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts in England was once asked what the Scout motto, “Be prepared” really meant. Powell replied “oh, be prepared for just any old thing”. No one was prepared for what has happened in the last month. Maybe we should have expected it. Things in our world were rolling along pretty well. There were jobs for anyone willing to work, the stock market was at record highs and another rally season was kicking off with perfect weather and a good crowd at James Island. Things were just fine in our world and the future looked secure. A virus turned our world and indeed the entire world upside down.

We’re not camping. We are staying home and watching news reports on the COVID-19 virus and trying to keep engaged remotely with family and friends. Infection and death totals grow daily, businesses are closed, and millions of our fellow citizens are out of work. Campgrounds are closed and rallies are cancelled. We will be able to camp again, but in the meantime, let’s do whatever we can to help our ourselves, our families and our communities get through this together.

We can learn from this. We can be better prepared for the next one, both physically and emotionally. There will be a next “one”. It may be a pandemic, flash flood, hurricane, tornado, ice storm or “any old thing”. As I said in my note back on March 12th, “Campers have a different mindset than the majority of folks. We tend to face little and big challenges with courage and self-reliance. We know that Mother Nature is a force to be dealt with but not defeated by”. As friends, as a club, as Americans, let’s prove it.

Our recovery will take longer than we expected so be strong and we will “rally together” through it.

Stay safe-

~Phil

2020 RALLIES

BRUCE THOMPSON, 1ST VP

So here we are At Home, Staying Safe, Social Distancing, Hand Washing, and wondering when we’ll be able to see our camping family again.

I trust everyone is doing well and finding plenty of projects to work on around the house & camper. To the camper in the last month, we’ve added a new Fantastic Fan MaxxAir cover, installed new metal-covered propane hoses, new tie-backs & valances for the curtains, ran a new cable for my radio station, installed a brand new Randy Hord antenna support, and installed a propane stove/oven. Can you tell we have camping on our minds?

Just last month, we had returned from the James Island Rally where 34 of us had a most enjoyable time together, then came the lock-down orders and cancellations of public gatherings – which included our April Tanglewood Rally, our Shelby Rally, and left our Pipestem WV Rally tenuous. For Pipestem, we're waiting to see if the WV Governor extends the virus precautionary measures beyond the end of April. The good news from Pipestem is that they have waived the cancellation fees if we need to cancel our reservations at the last moment pending announcement from the Governor.

We were really looking forward to seeing everyone at Tanglewood this month, but Bruce Bodenstein is scheduling this missed rally for April 2021!! Bruce B. will be sending out more details on this later.

What about Shining in Shelby!? Roger Holland worked so hard to pull this rally together in May, and the City of Shelby was so excited about our visit – to cancel was such a disappointment for us all. But we Adapt, Improvise and Overcome! We'll just shift our schedule for Shelby whenever the City determines a good timing. More on this soon.

June 4 – 7 is our Pipestem WV Rally! We'll keep you posted on the latest from WV.

Our July Rally is in Limestone, TN at the Davy Crockett Birthplace SP – a combined rally with the East Tennessee AC is still on right now!

Let's hope and pray the risks and dangers will pass soon. When restrictions are lifted – it will probably be a wild time on the roads and at the campgrounds. The whole RV world will want to get out and go somewhere. So be Ready! Watch your email closely and stay tuned to our webpage for updates. As always, stay safe – each member will need to assess their own risk level and determine their own timing of getting out. Our gatherings may need to be somewhat dispersed or eliminated for a while until we get back into our normal socializing routine.

See You Down the Road ~ Bruce T

2021 RALLIES

BRUCE BODENSTEIN, 2ND VP

Hello all. I see you, peeking out behind that curtain. Yes, it's spring and it feels like we should be pulling that shiny trailer down and out the drive on our way towards another adventure on the road. Circumstances have changed our plans dramatically this year though. With cancellations, closings and stay at home orders, our world at times seems to be spinning out of control.

Claire and I are getting used to spending lots more time together and both of us are catching up on pesky projects around the house. We can be thankful for a lot and especially the technology that is at hand for most of us. In my household every night seems to be movie night. Here's a challenge for you; how many movies have you seen that feature Airstreams? One of my favorites is "**What's Eating Gilbert Grape**". Tell me about any you think I should check out.

For me, I'm enjoying live streaming of church on Sunday morning while lounging around in my PJ's. Glad that video camera is one-way though. Speaking of church, I read the following recently and it eased my mind a lot about being one of the "vulnerable ones" (old with Asthma).

"When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul." -[Psalm 94:19](#)

Looking to the better times and the Airstreaming we love, Phil, Bruce T and I have been collaborating on shifting the cancelled rally locations to 2021 if possible. Additionally, I am looking at multiple ideas for new and different 2021 Rally sites. Thanks to you who have offered suggestions and volunteered to serve on the informal "Camping Committee". Have a good month and stay safe.

~ Bruce B



ELAINE MYERS
 quirkyquilter@pemtel.net

I haven't heard from anyone this month, so I am hoping no news is good news. However, I know that we all are being affected by Covid-19 in some way. Please remember that we are an Airstream FAMILY. Chances are there are members that live close to you, and all of us are reachable by phone, e-mail, etc. Reach out if you need something, even if it is just contact with the outside world, or to commiserate about the loss of camping adventures. And remember to find things to be grateful for: friends, family, pets, a sunny spring day, even toilet paper!

If you're worried, and you can't sleep,
 Just count your blessings instead of sheep,
 And you'll fall asleep counting your blessings.
 ~ Irving Berlin

MEMBERSHIP

DALE DOWLER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Our newest member (details in Evernote):

- Michelle Carlisle from Wilmington, NC and her 2020 19' Bambi

Welcome, Michelle!

COMING SOON TO A DEVICE NEAR YOU!

A VIRTUAL RALLY SOCIAL HOUR!

Members of your Board have recently held a meeting using the Zoom application. All had cameras and microphones, on desktops, tablets and phones, so we could see and hear each other. Let's turn that into a virtual social! Watch your email for an invitation, pencil it in for April 24 at 4:00pm.

The web browser client will download automatically when you join your first Zoom meeting, and is also available for manual download here - <https://zoom.us/download> Tip: Do that on your device and setup your camera and audio and test everything in advance. Make sure Zoom can use your camera on your phone, make sure the camera on your tablet points the right way. And you don't "need" a camera! You can just join the audio portion and at least hear your friends!

WE ARE SOCIALLY
 DISTANT BUT DIGITALLY
 CONNECTED ☺

SHINING IN SHELBY



Roger Holland #5796 has been working diligently with the city of Shelby, NC to reschedule the event for later in 2020, or 2021. Stay tuned!

SILVER IN THE CITY

The 2020 edition of *Silver in the City* on Congress Street in York, SC. has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CAROLINA BALLOONFEST Joint Rally 2020



Al Waschka, #1322 checked with the BalloonFest leadership regarding their plans for October and received this from Bud Welch, the Executive Director: "...We believe we are going to be fine in October. I have stayed in contact with our county officials this past month. They feel comfortable we will have the festival in October. So, we are planning another great year for October 16-18 2020...."

Please join members of the Southeastern Camping, Carolinas Airstream, South Carolina Coastal, Piedmont NC, Florida, and other Airstream Clubs from Region 3 and beyond for the Carolina BalloonFest Rally in Statesville, NC October 16-18, 2020. We will have parking convenient to the entrance to the festival grounds.

Anyone who desires to attend should e-mail Al Waschka #1322 (awaschka@bellsouth.net) for the link and password for our exclusive **WBAC BalloonFest Rally RV Parking Application**. We will have exclusive access to sign up for parking until the end of May. After that it will be first come-first served. The schedule is available at: <http://www.carolinaballoonfest.com/>.

This will be a no-frills rally with no rally fee. We attempt to plan our happy hours and meals around the festival events which requires some flexibility as the event timing is dictated by weather conditions.

Note:

1. Reservations are not refundable, but the festival has committed to support transfer of a reservation to another person as needed.
2. This is boondock-style camping. Arrive full of water, batteries charged, and holding tanks empty! Generators are allowed and pets are OK in the camping area. There will be food trucks on site. Exit and re-entry are possible, but not convenient.

We will have access to sign up before the general public. ***In order to guarantee a space with the club, our applications and deposits will have to be received by the end of May***

TECH STUFF

Larry Brodsky

Sequel to Cellular

I wrote a recent article on cellular and boosters. In preparing that article, I found a website www.rvmobileinternet.com that is a good resource for guides, testing, and general info about being connected on the road. Although there is good free

content, a membership fee allows you access to all of their content and there is a ton of useful stuff. In addition they have cooperating vendors with discounts that could allow you to recoup your first year's fee.

After considerable research, I decided to buy A Poynting MIMO antenna, a Pepwave MkII mobile router, and thick wall aluminum tube for my A-frame mount. Why, do you ask? First, I wanted an arrangement that allows me to have internet via Wi-Fi or cellular. For example, even at James Island this year their Wi-Fi was on the fritz (technical term) and my cellular connection allowed us to seamlessly stay connected. The antenna I purchased is the latest in high-gain, omnidirectional with a frequency band that covers everything, including future 5G. The mobile router is powered by 12vdc from my battery box, contains 2 SIM slots for 2 different cellular providers, and will also connect to 2.4 or 5.0 GHz Wi-Fi. I prefer a pole mount that I take down when we travel and erect when parked....no holes in my roof.

.Some suggest that an Airstream shields the signal coming from the router outside to the computer inside, not so. I get a very strong signal and was streaming a Britbox show over cellular with no problem. This arrangement gives me flexibility for future upgrades, always at a cost, at the price of a bit more complexity than plug and play. But, it is not hard to learn how to connect your network to the cellular or campground Wi-Fi.

My testing has shown that perhaps the most complicated element is obtaining a cellular provider. Cell service for data is not inexpensive and I found that streaming 1 hour of video used over 2G of data. The website above has a good, current listing of cellular provider options for road warriors, but you can do it much cheaper if all you need is email or other low data needs. It seems that the wireless companies have discovered that unlimited data plans are a revenue treasure trove. In the end, you must decide where you will be camping, how much data you need, and how much you are willing to pay if you want cellular internet. I am currently using a medium priced Cricket data plan (AT&T network) and a low

cost, low data US Mobile plan (T-Mobile network) for backup. Everything is working as I had hoped. I have simplified the decision process for brevity so if you head down this path do not hesitate to contact me at LSBRODSKY@earthlink.net.

Larry

MEETING MINUTES

Carolinas Airstream Club

March 14, 2020

James Island County Park Campground

Call to order-Phil thanked those attending (24 members)

Pledge of allegiance led by Bruce Thompson

Officer roll call: Present were Phil Drake, Pres; Bruce Thompson, 1st VP; Margie Lamb, Recording Secretary; Marcia Thompson, Corresponding Secretary; Greg Wilson, Director; Larry Brodsky, Director

No outstanding minutes to approve

New Business: Two new members inducted by George Lamb, Jeffery & Nancy Kueffer

Bruce spoke on upcoming rallies

Greg spoke about the Sanctuary Vineyard rally date moving due to conflict at the vineyard. It was approved to move the date from September 24-27 to September 17-20, 2020.

Old business: none

Motion to adjourn, Bob Clark, seconded by Bruce Thompson

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Lamb, Secretary

WHEN YOU HAVE TIME...

Now that you have more time than you wanted, what did *you* do?

Chris Fox cleaned Nellie's batteries!

Before:



After:



Bruce T. put on a wire door opener

Outside



Inside



If you think you can do a thing or think you can't do a thing, you're right. ~Henry Ford

Submitted by Bruce Bodenstein

QUARENTINE FUN

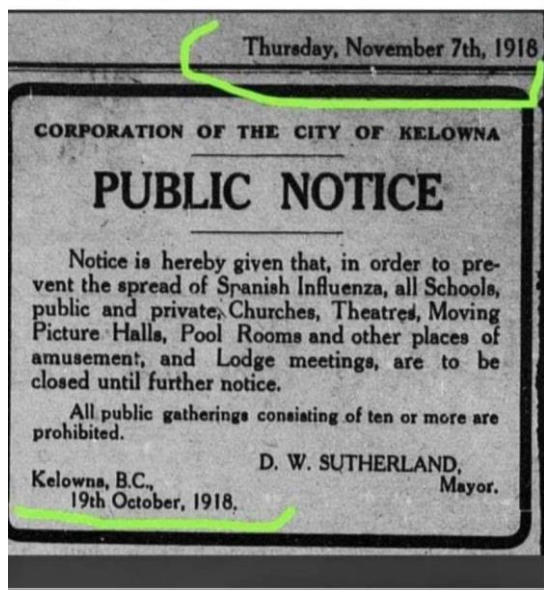
**Commemorative jewellery
to always remember 2020**



**COMING SOON - Virtual
Loveland2020 Exhibitor &
Member Presentations!!!**

SOUND FAMILIAR?

101 years later, back to same situation



MORE QUARANTINE FUN

Submitted by Monroe Bowles

- Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.
- I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.
- I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.
- Every few days, try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believing all is well in the kingdom.

*** REMEMBER, NO STORM LASTS FOREVER. HOLD ON, BE BRAVE, HAVE FAITH! ***

FUN FROM FRANK DIBONA



Frank, #7348 from Asheville, NC, was so proud that Queen Elizabeth addressed the British people wearing an AirstreamsEverywhere.com T-shirt! ;-)

<https://www.airstreamseverwhere.com>

If you don't know Frank, he likes to have fun with customizing images, often mashups of famous paintings and putting Airstreams in them. He was planning to come to our Shining in Shelby event in May. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/kiddocone/>

FROM AIRSTREAM, INC

To support our community, we recently partnered with Ohio-based Wilson Health to help facilitate their COVID-19 testing and care efforts. Airstream has loaned Nest trailers to support those performing testing at drive-through testing sites. Additionally, our sewing team, which is usually busy making cushions and draperies for our travel trailers and touring coaches, is currently working from home making personal protective equipment (PPE) for medical professionals and first responders. Airstream will continue to work with our local, state, and federal government partners to assist where we can in the coming weeks.

Mar 24, 2020 – Airstream suspends production

Want to submit something for the newsletter?
Email 021newslettereditor@wbcci.net

WBAC COVID-19

APRIL 6TH, 2020 ANNOUNCEMENT
LORI PLUMMER, CORPORATE MANAGER

HQ will remain closed until May 1st due to the stay at home order issued by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. HQ staff will be working remotely, some services will be limited and or delayed. You are welcome to call and leave a message at 937-596-5211 or email Info@airstreamclub.org with questions.

[2020 Club Officers and Directors](#)

VINTAGE WORKS

Part I: The saga of his '48, '62, and '73 Airstream trailers

Jim Johnson #16650 of Mooresville, NC

The '48:

I bought the 22 ft Liner in Georgetown, KY. It is a very neat trailer. It was all original and the price was right. So far, I have replaced the frame, added a new floor, new axles polished part of it and have begun reinstalling all of the side windows. My plan is to keep it as original as possible, but with upgrades for comfort and safety. Ideally, after I complete the restoration, I plan to purchase a 1948 Chevrolet Suburban as my tow vehicle!



Stay tuned for Part II in May!