



TARHEEL TRAVELER

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



PRESIDENTS CORNER

PHIL DRAKE #5789

Hi everyone, I trust that you are all virus free. To this point we have not had a single report of any member suffering from COVID-19. I saw a sign uptown today that reads “Keep Calm and Stay Masked”. Good advice but unfortunately many people ignore it. I am amazed at the many shops that have signs on their windows reading “Customers Must Wear Masks”; Cathy and I go in and we are the only customers wearing masks ☺

As I write this, we are getting ready for our second rally of the year next week at David Crockett Birthplace State Park in Limestone TN. I hope I can remember how to hook up the trailer! Tennessee State Parks are open and the David Crockett park staff is looking forward to our rally. The dress code for this event will be camping attire and face coverings. It will be different, as we will be socially distancing and having “distanced” group activities. Our rally hosts Ray & Carol Combs with Rocky and Susan Johnson are still going to make this an enjoyable experience but in the interest of member safety, our usual rally agenda will be quite different. The East Tennessee club will be joining us for this joint rally. Sunshine, fresh air, old and new friends, what else do we really need?

A reminder that if you want a club garden flag, you must order it on our website. Even if you responded to our garden flag interest survey, you must now order a flag and submit payment.

By now everyone should have received our 60th anniversary medallion in the mail. If not, please let me know.

Be safe- ~Phil *phil.drake@att.net*

2020 RALLIES

BRUCE THOMPSON #5027, 1ST VP

Hello Streamers! Hope everyone is staying safe and sane.

This report will be much abbreviated, as we are packing up for the Tennessee Rally and leaving at day-break tomorrow. Hope to see you there.

This rally will be an experiment in how to rally and have a great time, and yet stay safe and isolated. Ray Combs and Rocky Johnson, our hosts for the Davy Crockett Birthplace SP, have compiled an excellent agenda to do just that – have a good time and still stay distant and safe with our masks. Davy Crockett is FULL – I tried to add a day to my reservation and there are no sites left. This rally is our first with the [East Tennessee Airstream Club](#) and promises to be a great time to meet and greet our fellow Streamers.

And speaking of Tennessee, remember to watch for the opening of reservations in August for the 2021 International Rally in Lebanon, Tennessee!! You don't want to miss that since it is so close. It WILL be well-attended.

We have a common interest in owning the perfect escape pod. It is equipped with all the creature comforts, so all we have to do is pack the pantry, fridge and hook up. Once you reach the destination, you can still be isolated. Or, you can mask up, stay six feet apart,

eat watermelon, have your picnic, drink your wine, and enjoy the outdoors. Some folks keep a bug-out bag with minimum supplies that can be thrown in the camper so you don't waste much time packing. There's a science to packing minimal supplies and a seminar was on the subject at International one year, but we won't delve there this month.

We've received word that our October rally at the Statesville Balloon Fest has been cancelled. So another one bites the dust, but we understand in the interest of public safety – it's the safer thing to do. That means there are only a few rallies left this year:

1. Boone KOA in August
2. Sanctuary Vineyards at OBX in September
3. Alumalina at Marion in October
4. Ocean Lakes in November.

Click the link here to see info on these 2020 rallies:

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

And be sure to call for your reservation and then **RSVP!**

Next up: Boone KOA in August! Hope to see you there. Twice, we've had to increase our allotment of Held sites for this rally. It will be a popular place for getting away from 90-degree, humid, summer weather. I just called and there are still a few sites available for August 13 – 16th. We may have exhausted our "held" sites for the CAC, but there are other sites available. Here's the link & don't forget to RSVP: <https://carolinas.airstreamclub.net/2020-rallies-events-2/august-2020-rally-boone-nc/>

There seems to be a lot of traffic on the roads! Folks are just getting tired of staying at home. I just stopped by Out of Doors Mart in Greensboro yesterday – they

have sold all their Airstreams!!! The front "show" lane on Interstate 40 is barren of any Airstreams! So it seems people want to travel but still isolate in their campers.

Got to go finish packing. Thanks & hope to see you in Tennessee!

~ Bruce T



2021 RALLIES

BRUCE BODENSTEIN #8168, 2ND VP

Warm greetings from a mountaintop somewhere...

Other than the in-place mask requirements and the inherent cautiousness we have all developed these last five months, the camping experience seems to be trending back to normal. As you read this many of you are enjoying the Eastern Tennessee rally at David Crockett State Park. You DID bring your coonskin caps, right? Yes, it's discouraging to glance at our rally lineup for this year with all the cancellations we've experienced but there are a couple of bright spots yet so make plans. We are missing each other big time.

Did anyone take advantage of the downtime this season to undertake a redo, needed repair or interesting upgrade to your home on wheels? We often get useful technical articles from Larry B and others and I find I them helpful to read.

For the first couple years of Airstream ownership, I often found myself in “itchin’ to upgrade” mode. I wanted that “ducted air” or 2nd A/C or extra foot or two of length. Thankfully, for my wallet, I am past that phase now. My trailer and I fit like a glove and other than a major hailstorm or other misfortune, I can’t see us parting ways. I just have too much invested in her. Heck, I’ve even nicknamed the scratches and dents like you do old friends.

Tell me who your favorite vendors are for A/S parts and upgrades. The Dometic Corp. is one company I must give credit to for their customer support. Most of you will recognize them as the supplier of most RV appliances like fridges, heaters, etc. I am not always impressed with their quality, but in my experience, they have always been responsive and it’s easy to get to a real person. Take my year-old replacement toilet as one example. This season, a mysterious on and off leak developed around the base. On closer examination it appeared to be coming from the foot valve. One phone call and with no questions asked, a brand new one showed up at the door a few days later.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon. Have a safe and healthy month.

~ Bruce B

2nd VP

Great leaders are not always in front, they also know who to follow. Be the best in yourself and lead, see the best in others and follow.

KNOW WHEN TO LEAD, KNOW WHEN TO FOLLOW.

From the “[Just Keep Livin Foundation](#)”



RENEWAL DATES

Mark your calendar!

July 1st *through* December 31st (by November 1st, if you wish to be included in the printed WBCCI International Membership Directory. Remember, the new **WBAC Self-Service Portal** begins in mid-July!



ELAINE MYERS #16767
quirkyquilter@pemt.net

Miriam R.’s father, Robert Ashley, passed away June 14 after months of declining health. Condolences to the family.

With the help of her veterinarian, Boots, beloved dog of George and Margie L., crossed the Rainbow Bridge. We will all miss her at the rallies, she loved camping with us so much!

The good news is that we *finally* get to gather at a Rally! It will be good for our souls to catch up with each other in person, even if we can't hug, or see each other's smiling faces behind the masks!

For my part, I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move.

~ Robert Louis Stevenson

MEMBERSHIP

DALE DOWLER #1972, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

We have 129 rigs in our club!!

Our newest members (details in Evernote):

- **Patrick Whitener & Jeanie Gorman** from Asheville, NC and their 2021 27' Globetrotter
- **Stephen Scott** from Clayton, NC and his 2020 20' Bambi
- **Kim & Jim Burson** from Wake Forest, NC and their 22' Bambi

Welcome *all!*

SHINING IN SHELBY



Save the Date!

May 6-9, 2021

Click here to [RSVP!](#)

BALLOON FEST 2020 – CANCELLED

Al Waschka, #1322

I have received notice from Bud Welch, the Festival's Executive Director, that they have decided, given the uncertainty of what things will be like in October and concern that NC Governor Roy Cooper may feel it necessary to revert to a more restrictive policy if the Covid-19 numbers don't improve, to cancel the 2020 Festival. If you have reserved a parking space, you should have received a letter advising you of your alternatives regarding your payment.

The options are:

1. Transfer your reservation to the 2021 Festival. Executive Director Bud Welch is promising great things, including an improved Festival site for 2021.
2. Receive a full refund. If your check has not been cashed, he will return or shred it, at your discretion. If it *has* been cashed, they will send you a check from the Festival.
3. Make your payment a donation to the charity. Bud told me that they deliver over \$100,000 to their supported organizations each year and those organizations still need the funding, Festival or no Festival.

From the [BalloonFest](#) website:

©2020 National Balloon Rally Charities, Inc. is an incorporated 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all contributions are tax deductible. A portion of proceeds raised through **Carolina BalloonFest** are distributed to local nonprofit organizations. PO Box 267 ~ Statesville NC 28687

I plan to make my fee a donation, and I'd encourage anyone who feels it is a worthy cause to do the same.

If you have not received a letter or e-mail, please contact the festival directly as I have not been involved with the parking space reservation process.

We have put our Florida home on the market, and don't currently know where we will be in 2021 or what we will be doing, but watch this newsletter in case I decide to host in 2021 or someone else steps up. If anyone is interested, I will provide my list of contacts and any other assistance I can.

See you down the road,

Al and Missy Waschka, #1322
awaschka@bellsouth.net



AIRSTREAM KNOWLEDGE BASE

If you have a question before you can get to a club event, <https://support.airstream.com/hc/en-us>

2021 WBCCI INTERNATIONAL IS IN TENNESSEE!

The **2021 WBCCI International Rally** will be held in Lebanon, TN at the [Wilson County Exposition Center](#) **July 16-24**. Registration begins **August 5, 2020!**

Register here August 5:

<https://airstreamclub.org/current-members/lebanon-2021-international-rally>

2nd VP Bruce Bodenstein will likely plan a caravan to International, stopping overnight in east Tennessee!

[2020 CAC CLUB OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS](#)