



# TARHEEL TRAVELER

NEWSLETTER OF THE CAROLINAS AIRSTREAM CLUB  
THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CLUB IN WBCCI FORMED IN 1960



## PRESIDENTS CORNER

PHIL DRAKE #5789

As Cathy and I were breaking camp at the Davy Crockett State Park rally, the campground host, Mr. Bob Bussmann stopped by and told me that the staff really enjoyed our visit. He said “you know, we get a lot of campers in here but you Airstream people are a cut above.” He went on to say that even the lone Airstreamers who camp there are always friendly and courteous to the staff and other campers. “If I had the opportunity, I would buy an Airstream and join your club or the Tennessee club. You look like you have a lot of fun”. People notice our shiny trailers but more importantly, they notice the people inside them.

**Breaking news:** Since you are subscribed to our newsletter, you will be first to hear about this. We are launching online credit/debit payments through our website. Ed Hall, our webmaster, has been working hard to ensure both payment security and ease of use when paying for rally fees or purchasing merchandise. Members will have the ability to register for a rally and prepay the rally fees in advance. If your need to cancel, Ed has designed an easy refund process. Details will be forthcoming soon so please be on the lookout for this important information. We are moving to online payments for a number of reasons but chief among them is health safety. In this COVID pandemic handling cash or checks puts us all at risk and is simply no longer necessary.

**Sound System:** Since “spreading out” is the new normal, the Board approved purchase of a new portable sound system. With it, you will now be able to hear clearly at indoor or outdoor activities.

**Flags for sale:** We still have club garden flags for sale. We ordered fifty flags based on the initial survey of members’ interest. A number of those go unclaimed. If you want a flag, please order it so we can clear our shelf and move on to the next project.

**Time to renew** your WBCCI and Carolinas Airstream Club membership. You can do this quickly online at <https://airstreamclub.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=714a911e970d9dc3ab428f988&id=182cfe2fca&e=8d0f41fc46> WBCCI membership for 2021 is \$75.00, CAC membership remains \$15.00. You must renew by December 31 to have your information listed in the directory. Please renew now so you don’t forget.

**Myrtle Beach Rally in November:** We have started to plan our annual Myrtle Beach Rally scheduled for November 5 thru 8. Things will have to be different this year. We are taking some rather extraordinary steps in our meal and activity planning. You will be hearing more about these later as our plans firm up. Our goal is to have fun and be safe. Emphasis on *safe*. Be careful out there.

~Phil phil.drake@att.net

## 2020 RALLIES

BRUCE THOMPSON #5027, 1ST VP

Hello Streamers! Here we are at the Boone KOA with 20 rigs - a great attendance given the wet weather and pandemic. We're staying masked and 6-feet distant, but still having a good time. Even masked, it's still great to see our camping family. Between rain showers, we had an ice cream social that gave everyone an opportunity to greet friends, visitors, and new members.

It was highly suggested by our editor that I complete this article from the rally because the 15th deadline has arrived, so here I am on my Android tablet trying to compose with correct spelling. No telling what you're going to get.

Next month, we're gathering at Sanctuary Vineyards in Jarvisburg, NC on the Outer Banks on September 24 - 27, where our hosts are Greg & Lynne Wilson. They set the bar *very* high for hosting, and they have a wonderful agenda planned. Still, we'll be masked & distanced - trying to stay safe. Here is where I would normally place a URL that goes directly to our website with info on this rally, but difficult to do with current KOA Wi-Fi and this device.

Remember, our Carolina Balloon Fest in Statesville NC for October got COVID-Cancelled... maybe next year let's hope it will happen.

October schedule has Alumalina on 22nd - 25th. John Leake has always attracted a huge crowd of Streamers and this will be yet another great rally. For our group, Ricky & Joan Wilcox are co-hosting with Bob & Carol Rychly. They'll be sending an agenda, so the word will spread as to where they will be located. It's easy to spot Ricky's Land Yacht in a crowd- looks to be 20-feet tall. John will encourage everyone to respect everyone's 6-foot space and stay masked, but make

sure you have a good time. Here's where I place a URL, but you guys can figure that out... just go to our website.

Ok, I'm near the end of my assignment. I hope you can make some since of this. Anyway, everyone stay safe & let's try to get through this. Oh, and did you see - we're up to 134 memberships now! You guys are attracting a crowd.

Thanks & See you down the road.

~ Bruce T

*Editor notes:*

RSVP for the [OBX Rally](#) but know the rally may be full and you await a cancellation. Also, more to come in this newsletter about the 2021 Balloon Fest

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We will adapt the usual to fit the now  
unusual. ~ John Leake, Past R3 President

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When the GPS says turn right...

## BEE KEEPER FUN!

We have *at least* 4 bee keepers in our club! Are you? Tell [021newslettereditor@wbcci.net](mailto:021newslettereditor@wbcci.net)



## 2021 RALLIES

BRUCE BODENSTEIN #8168, 2ND VP

Hello and greetings from the 2nd VP Chair. As most of you know, my primary responsibility this year is to choose and present a slate of Rally Sites for the 2021 camping season. If you have looked at our website recently and clicked on the 2021 Rally tab, you can see I have been hard at work, as our webmaster Ed Hall has already posted a growing list of venues for 2021.

To start with, all of us have our fingers crossed that we will have a camping season next year. Personally, I am trying to be optimistic. I hope at least some of my picks will pique your interest and you will make reservations soon. Some of you already have and that truly is an encouragement to me. Many thanks! Hosting slots are still open as well so please consider taking that on for one of our outings, especially if you have never done it

before. It is not a hard job and you will have all the help you need.

Perhaps some of you have wondered how one would even tackle such a challenge that, for me, initially seemed to be such a daunting task. Well, as I found out, the key is teamwork. In other words, I was not on my own.

Given that we did have a string of cancellations early this season, Bruce T and I decided to move up a year, several of the missed rallies. This gave me a nice leg up. The Ocean Lakes November Rally is a given in the club apparently so that was easy as well. Folks seem to like James Island at Charleston and it seems like a reasonably safe choice weather-wise for the first outing of the season, so I booked that once again.

I have appreciated all the suggestions various of you have offered and several of these possibilities have been vetted and considered. The June Rally (may be posted by now) is going to be a special one that I have spent considerable time on, exploring ideas, visiting campgrounds and consulting with other members.

As many of you are aware, quite a number of our club members are Amateur Radio aficionados or better known as HAMS. Since 1933, ham radio operators across North America have established temporary ham radio stations in public locations during what is called a "Field Day" which is always held the forth full weekend in June, to showcase the science and skill of amateur radio. As a relatively new HAM myself, I had never attended a Field Day but when one of our HAMS mentioned that it might be a fun thing to do for a Rally, I took up the challenge.

Obviously, not all of our members would find this interesting, so my challenge was to locate an appropriate campground that would encourage, and even help, with the logistics for a Field Day (putting up antennas, etc.) but also would be a pleasant location with other things to do in the area. Bruce T and Marcia once again came to my aid and helped me identify what seems to be an ideal spot up on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 324.7, near Spruce Pine, NC. Claire and I spent several nights at this campground and came away

excited by the “Field Day” themed rally we are planning. Keep an eye out, as more info is on the way.

My quote for the day is... “A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing.” — *George Bernhard Shaw.*

~Bruce B

2nd VP

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## AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR FUN!

We have at least 24 hams in this club. Are you? Tell [021newslettereditor@wbcci.net](mailto:021newslettereditor@wbcci.net)

I injured myself measuring radio frequency yesterday.  
It still Hertz.

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## RVILLAGE

Chris & Gina Fox #6674

We've been having so much fun on RVillage, come check out what you've been missing! It's the largest online community for the RV lifestyle. It's FREE & this link will put you right in our group! After you sign in, be sure to say *Hi!*

**Travel, Park, Connect!**

<https://www.rvillage.com/group/3724/the-riveted-fox>

## A RETIREE'S LAST TRIP TO KROGER

*Stolen and submitted by Susanne Schneider  
#5032*

Yesterday I was at my local Kroger's buying a large bag of Purina Dog Chow for my loyal pet, Jake, the Wonder Dog, and was in the check-out line when a woman behind me asked if I had a dog.

What did she think I had, an elephant?

So because I'm retired and have little to do, on impulse I told her that no, I didn't have a dog, I was starting the Purina Diet again. I added that I probably shouldn't, because I ended up in the hospital last time, but that I'd lost 50 pounds before I awakened in an intensive care ward with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and IVs in both arms.

I told her that it was essentially a perfect diet and that the way that it works is, to load your pants pockets with Purina Nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete so it works well and I was going to try it again. (I have to mention here that practically everyone in line was now enthralled with my story.)

Horrified, she asked if I ended up in intensive care because the dog food poisoned me. I told her no, I stopped to pee on a fire hydrant and a car hit me.

I thought the guy behind her was going to have a heart attack he was laughing so hard.

Kroger's won't let me shop there anymore.

Better watch what you ask retired people. They have all the time in the world to think of crazy things to say.

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**RALLY 'ROUND OUR CAMPFIRE!**

ELAINE MYERS #16767  
[quirkyquilter@pemtel.net](mailto:quirkyquilter@pemtel.net)

Ginger F. has the dubious distinction of being our first known member to contract Covid19. She is recovering well, and Chuck has tested negative.

William J. has had to put rally attendance on hold due to back surgery. He and Denette hope to be back in circulation next year. Take care!

Larry and Pam B. sadly report that “our truly beloved dog, Rusty, of 15 years has joined the other legendary CAC dogs in doggie heaven. We are taking it very hard. He had been on every Airstream trip we have taken.” So sorry to hear. Our pets love camping as much as we do.

There was a fire at Ocean Lakes Campground in July, with 12 homes and a few cars and golf carts being destroyed or damaged. No residents were injured, but 2 firefighters were. Our best to all affected.

Campfires are places for stories, and I've been requested to share this one:

At last month's rally at David Crockett Birthplace State Park, Scott and I spent one afternoon visiting nearby Erwin, TN known as “the town that hanged an elephant.” It seems that back in 1916, a small circus was in the area. As it paraded through Kingsport, a new, untrained fellow riding Mary, the elephant, poked her with a spear to keep her on track. She promptly threw him to the ground and killed him. The crowd became

an angry mob, demanding the death of “Murderous Mary.” They quickly discovered that bullets would not penetrate her skin, so they took her to Erwin, where there was a giant crane by the railroad tracks, and hung her there. Gruesome, yes. Fascinating, yes. The only traces left in Erwin are brightly painted fiberglass elephant statues on almost every corner, as Erwin is trying to rebrand itself as an elephant loving town! For more unsavory details, a photo, and even YouTube videos, do an internet search for Murderous Mary the elephant. Or not. And to find out how in the heck we find such oddities, check my article elsewhere in this newsletter.

*“We travel not to escape life, but for life not to escape us.” ~ Robyn Yong*

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## OFF THE BEATEN PATH

*Elaine Myers, #16767*

Did you know you can visit Mr. Ed's grave? Or see the tallest file cabinet, the largest pistachio, chile pepper, or fire hydrant? Or visit museums for Archie Campbell, Tina Turner, the Bonnie and Clyde Ambush, the Kazoo, the Zippo lighter? How about the smallest Post Office? The grave of Stonewall Jackson's arm? Oddities like these abound in this great country. And many of them are free! But how to find them when you are on a camping adventure? Sure, TripAdvisor has the most visited and “normal” sites, and those are worthy, as well. But for good ole Americana Kitsch, my go-to website is [RoadsideAmerica.com](http://RoadsideAmerica.com).

Here are a few hints: Go to the website, and select the state map you are interested in. Enlarge the map to the area you want. Clicking on a marker will bring up the name of the spot, and if it interests you, click

“More.” A page will pop up with lots of info - detailed description, photo (which is helpful in locating obscure sights), history, directions (if it says, “5 miles down a dead end gravel road,” you probably don’t want to haul the Airstream there!), and comments from recent visitors. That last one is important, as the sight may have closed, or is on private property and needs an appointment to visit, etc. It also helps to find the spot on [GoogleMaps](#) to check out the parking or accessibility. Sometimes the online photo and Wikipedia article will have to suffice. Many are on Main St. or alongside the Interstate and just involve a drive by or a quick photo op. Others sound almost too goofy to visit, but have turned out to be some of our favorite stops! And many do have interesting history behind them, like the Buffalo Jump, the Viking Museum, the last store James Dean visited, Smokey Bear’s grave.... ‘*Oh, the Places You’ll Go!*’

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## A DOG

Larry Brodsky, #2371



Best friend? No, that does not say enough. Since when do you spend nearly 24 hours of every day with a best friend? Your best friend always has other things going on in his/her life; you are simply just a friend.

Family member? No, not that either. Family members grow up, also have their own interests, spend time with their own crowd, and then move on even if they remain close in other ways.

Companion? No, again. A companion keeps you company, provides some assistance, but their life is their own except when acting as your companion. Most often, companionship is not very deep, just being there.

Why are these words not enough? Until your dog is gone, you do not realize that their whole life revolved around you, even though your life had many elements. Your dog relied on you for food, cleanliness, health, challenges, rewards, and attention. Meanwhile, your dog provided unconditional love to you, not to every human, just a select few. Maybe you forgot to fill the water bowl, delayed feeding time, lost your temper; your dog did not hold any of that against you. If you had to leave your dog for any period of time, short or long, remember the greeting you received on your return? Doubtful that even your loving spouse can match that or matches it with that enthusiasm every time, over and over. Your dog knew when you were sick or distracted. Remember the lick or the nuzzling, maybe even the cuddle or rubbing?

Then, think about how that canine enriched you. You probably didn’t appreciate how you saw more of Nature with those many walks, especially when the weather was bad. How many more people did you meet and talk with because you had your dog with you? How much did you grow by training and taking care of your dog and sharing your life with a dog?

Sadder than the passing of your dog, is the fact that you probably did not appreciate all of that until your dog was gone. It is only human to feel that there are things you could have done better or should have done better. There always are. Time to forget about the disappointments.

Your dog was a precious gift, although unrecognized as such during his life. Take the time to savor and celebrate the joy it brought you.

~Larry

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## MEMBERSHIP

DALE DOWLER #1972, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

We have 135 rigs in our club!!

Our newest members (details in Evernote):

- **Danielle & Graham Corriher** of Salisbury, NC and their 2015 25' Flying Cloud
- **Bob Hoffman and Wayne Clark** from Charlotte, NC and their 2020 27' Globetrotter
- **Mickey & Caroline Brennan** of Mt Pleasant, SC and their 2020 30' Flying Cloud
- **Scott & Grayson Tinney** from Rocky Point, NC and their 2020 30' International
- **Diane & Mike Stephens** of Kernersville, NC

Welcome *all!*

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*Keep your eyes on the stars, and the stars  
in your eyes...see if you can find out  
what's over the next hill, and the next one  
after that*

- Wally Byam

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## QUILTING FUN!

Are you a quilter? Tell [021newslettereditor@wbcci.net](mailto:021newslettereditor@wbcci.net)



## SHINING IN SHELBY



*Save the Date!*

May 6-9, 2021

Click here to [RSVP!](#)

## WHEREVER THE FOUR WINDS BLOW:

### WALLY'S CLASSIC CARAVANS

Photographer Fran Hall was born in 1914 in a small town in Minnesota but he had big dreams to travel the world.

This dream would ultimately be realized when he became Airstream's photographer for the iconic [1963-1964 Around the World Caravan from Singapore to Portugal](#).



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Coming together is the beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success.

~ *Henry Ford*

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## BLUE BERET ARTICLE

Did you see Larry's Water Filtrations article in the [August Blue Beret](#) page 38?

Brought to you here in our club newsletter in July!  
Congratulations, Larry!

## MEMO FROM WBCCI HEADQUARTERS

Date: July 28, 2020

From: HQ Team

Re: 2021 Membership Renewals

2021 Membership Renewal season is here. A few changes have transpired since last renewal season:

- Membership dues are **\$75.00** a year.
- The three-part renewal form has been discontinued.
- HQ will be notifying members it is time to renew by postcard, email, and social media.
- Local Clubs are encouraged to direct their members to [airstreamclub.org/renew](http://airstreamclub.org/renew) to renew their membership starting **August 1**.
- HQ will notify Local Clubs of issues contacting members for renewals.
- The deadline for the Annual Printed Membership Directory is December 31, 2020.
- The Annual Printed Membership Directory will be published in February.

The members-only self-service portal on [airstreamclub.org](http://airstreamclub.org) will be launching soon. Once members can log in, they will be able to see the data we have on file for them. Keep an eye out for that notification.

If you need a current membership list, email Amanda at [membership@airstreamclub.org](mailto:membership@airstreamclub.org), or you can call her at 937-596-5211.

Let HQ know if you have any questions

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## [2020 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS](#)



## WORDS FROM YOUR REGION 3 PRESIDENT

Bill Wild #3615

[r3president@wbcci.net](mailto:r3president@wbcci.net)

I am so excited about being your Region 3 President! My First Lady Barbara and I live in Cumming, GA, and are members of the Top of Georgia Airstream Club. I am twice retired – first from the Navy (30 years active and reserve) and from Southern Company/Georgia Power (34 years). I am a Past President of the Top Georgia (2018 – the year of the tornado) and from there I went directly to Region 3 leadership. As Region VP we have already begun our quest to attend a rally with every unit in Region 3, but COVID-19 and knee replacement surgery has certainly slowed that effort down. Hopefully things will improve, and the 2021 Region 3 Rally will be a go for April 2021 at the North Florida Fairgrounds in Tallahassee, FL. In the meantime, follow your heart and either hunker down, or get out there and camp. Either way, be safe and considerate of your fellow club members. As Airstream Club members we are more than just owners of an RV brand – we are a family. And like all families, we are all in this together.

~Bill

### Upcoming 2021 WBCCI meetings:

1. **2021 Winter IBT:** The Winter IBT is *tentatively* scheduled to be in **Sarasota, FL** this coming **January**.
2. **2021 Region 3 Rally** being planned for **April 21–25** at the **North Florida Fair in Tallahassee, FL** we can get back to having rallies.

As details are finalized I will keep you posted. ~Bill



Want to get involved in our club?

### *Online Store Manager*

Individual who has an interest in online sales of club merchandise. Duties include receiving orders from our website and shipping items to our members. As we grow the number of items we offer to members, this individual will make product recommendations to the Board of Directors, order approved items, work with the webmaster to list the items on our website and monitor all store activity. As we have a limited number of products, this will be a fun learning experience and yet very important position in our club. If interested, contact Ed Hall via [021info@wbcci.net](mailto:021info@wbcci.net)

### *Email Administrator*

As our Club continues to grow, and as WBCCI moves toward leveraging more technology, we are seeking out a new Email Administrator.

#### Responsibilities:

- Draft and send out Club wide emails on the Club's Gmail account. Examples: new members announcements, rally and event related announcements, and Board Members' announcements.
- Monitor the Club's email inbox ([021info@wbcci.net](mailto:021info@wbcci.net)) for incoming questions and inquiries, and either reply or forward to the appropriate Board Member.
- Monitor the Club's email spam filter box and delete as needed – not frequent.
- Manage (add/edit/delete) the Club's email distribution list (Google Contacts).

Average monthly time investment is 3-5 hours. If interested, contact Ed Hall via [021info@wbcci.net](mailto:021info@wbcci.net)