

56th
ANNIVERSARY
YEAR!

Chartered in 1964



April 2020
Edition

THE VIRGINIA TRAVELER, A publication of the VIRGINIA AIRSTREAM CLUB (#109), W.B.C.C.I.

Thoughts from the President....



Fellow members,

Well, its a scary and interesting time we live in right now. We are making history and writing new chapters every day. Who knows what changes will be instituted by the time this article is printed. I sincerely hope folks are safe and well! Hopefully we, as Americans, are successful in stopping transmission of the disease and are able to protect the most vulnerable. With the Region 3 Rally and the International Rally cancelled, who knows what the future holds? Rallies certainly will be curtailed for some period, as well as caravans - basically a minor inconvenience given the seriousness of the virus. We hope and pray for our safety and the halting of the spread and seriousness of the virus among those you care the most about.

Lee and I have returned from Florida and are glad to be home. We had been with Lee's family in Lake County, FL, and there were few known cases of the virus in that area. We stayed with family, eating in, and avoiding crowds except the grocery. At this point we are staying active. Food in the grocery is generally available, although one

might have to substitute items, as in blackberries for blueberries. So, honestly, no hardship. We're certainly concerned for those in the population who do not enjoy the same food security.

We hope to have at least some of the planned 2020 rallies and the caravan to the Swiss Rally. Two books I have read recently reference the areas we are visiting during the caravan and the Swiss Rally. I just finished "The Pioneers" by David McCullough, so I want to visit Marietta, Ohio, with better knowledge of its significance in the settling of the frontier. The other book was "Hiking Through" by Paul Stutzman, which is the story of a person who worked in Sugar Creek. His wife died and he ended up walking the Appalachian Trail. The book has great trail stories, as well as his religious revelations.

So, my Airstream friends, be safe, social distance and care for those around you. We are getting more information on the virus and have great minds in America - I feel when we come out of the other side of this scary time we will have learned much about the virus and our health.

See you down the road.

Thanks!

Jeff

ASME - LMOA - WBCCI

Caravan to Sugarcreek



The current virus of course is disrupting all Airstream events across the country for the near future, and for how long we don't yet know. Thus, we must wait to see what happens with the September rally we hope to attend at Sugarcreek, Ohio. The rally reservation form and activity schedule are now available on the Swiss Festival Special Event 2020 Rally web site, but perhaps we should wait a while before submitting the form and funds in case the rally becomes cancelled.

Meanwhile for marking your calendar, tentative arrangements have been made for stops on our Virginia Airstream Club caravan to the rally. We can rendezvous on Monday, September 21, at the State Fairgrounds of West Virginia at Lewisburg (site of the international rally a few years ago). Some may even wish to arrive there on Sunday, September 20, and thus be there two nights. Then on Tuesday, September 22, we travel to the Washington County Fairgrounds at Marietta, Ohio, for a three night stay. While there we can tour the Marietta and Parkersburg, West Virginia sites along the Ohio River. Then on Friday, September 25, we travel the short distance to Sugarcreek to arrive between 1 and 5 p.m. for caravan early parking.

At this point, any Airstream club member wishing to be included in the caravan plans should advise the caravan leaders, Douglas and Doris Anne (D.A.) Powell, #9900, at Douglas@BanisterRiver.com, to be kept up-to-date. Lets all hope the current scourge is soon under control.

Douglas

Region 3 Business

The realities of dealing with the current pandemic crept up on us slowly and were not too shocking at first. Aside from all the startling health information we were being bombarded with via the news media, the video posted by International President Mona Heath: https://youtu.be/Rx8vU9yT_WQ surely was a harbinger of what lay ahead for us re: our cherished club activities. In addition to having to cancel most local club planned gatherings based on the order of Virginia Governor Northam to limit activity outside of the home until June 10th, we've also had the Region 3 Rally cancelled. While this was disappointing for planned attendees, it also created problems for the Region 3 administration. In addition to being a grand social and educational gathering for region members, it was also the venue to conduct region business, including the election of region officers.

Resourcefulness has always been a trait of Airstreamers and the current region administration is no exception. Region 3 President John Leake has informed all region local club presidents that the nominating committee had the following three names prepared to be presented at the business meeting at the region rally (each of whom comes highly recommended by Pres. Leake):

PRESIDENT: BILL WILD

1ST VP: CHRISTINE BAUM

2ND VP: JERRY PETERSON

The local club presidents were instructed to consider the candidates and, if possible, seek input from their membership. With rallies cancelled and communications strained, they were reminded that "no one knows your members better than you. If they did not have confidence in your decision making, they would not have elected you." Based on that, the presidents were told to forward any objections to Region 3 Pres. Leake by May 1. After that date, the candidates will be considered as elected. Installation will take place at a later date, coinciding with the original International Rally dates.

Streamin on the Harbor Georgetown SC

From the very first time that we heard about Airstream downtown rallies, sometimes known as “Silver on the Street,” we were curious, excited, and eager to participate in such an event.

After wintering in the Florida Keys and in the Panhandle, our plan was to return to Virginia in time for spring. A post caught my eye on Facebook about the South Carolina Coastal Airstream Club (SCCAC) plan to repeat in March 2020 a successful event they had held the previous year in the low country harbor town of Georgetown, SC.

Without hesitation I called rally organizer Henry Knight and expressed my desire to join in this event. Henry reminded me that the rally was open initially to SCCAC members and, space permitting, the rally would then be open to other folks, so I was effectively on the waiting list!

Georgetown, South Carolina, epitomizes early colonial life in the South. Founded in 1729 and located on the Sampit River, it was a port of entry and dominated the rice and indigo trade. Today the Historic District where the rally is parked boasts over 40 notable period houses and a dozen churches, temples, and lodges along with older Federal buildings.

A couple of months later I received confirmation from Henry Knight that we were on the final list and delighted to start receiving meticulous planning details and arrangements for our group of 40 Airstreamers. The last message was reminding Airstreamers that they should prepare for 3 days and nights of dry camping, so come with fully charged batteries, full fresh water tank, empty gray and black tanks, and a smiling face.

Early March we left Cape Canaveral in perfect weather and arrived in Georgetown in what can only be described as a two-day monsoon of horrendous proportions. Even under these weather conditions we were amazed to arrive at the Carroll A Campbell Marine Complex staging area for the first overnight to find 40 airstreams already parked and anxiously

waiting for the first evening organizational meeting, happy hour, and the welcome dinner provided by rally sponsor Bojangles, all in a downpour!



The Carroll Campbell Marina Complex has room for over 100 boat trailers and serves as the first night staging area.

Even though Henry had organized this event the previous year, I was still very impressed with the meticulous military style planning that goes into marshaling and staging 40 airstreams, starting with the Thursday night dry camping assembly at the marina. The following morning, fortunately bright and sunny, we inserted ourselves into a very specific pre-assigned



The third staging point after the town parade allows our rigs to be individually escorted by golf cart to their final pre-planned location in the Historic District.

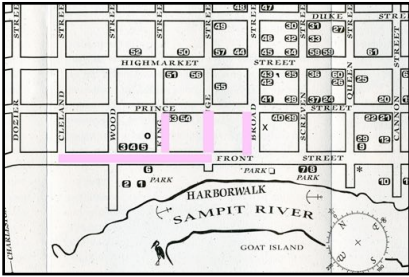
Airstream sequence (red numbers very important!) and were marshaled along the lengthy East Bay Park road where the convoy halted to install our flags before our 9:30 am ceremonial cruise down Highmarket Street with its canopy of live oaks into



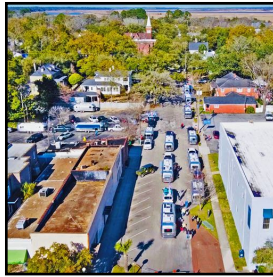
Safely parked on Orange Street, Georgetown SC, featuring the rally banner. This street was closed down which allowed for three parallel rows of Airstreams.

Georgetown. Local folks were on their doorsteps waving as we drove our Grand Entrance along the Main Street! The final marshaling, requiring patience and cooperation, got us into line two abreast on Dozier Street, which had been closed down. From that point, we were summoned individually into the central Historic District area and escorted by golf cart to our final assigned location, all carefully calculated to fit each participant's Airstream

length. I'm glad to say that the three Georgetown streets that were closed off were all quite level and no adjustments were needed to get rigs setup. Our towing vehicles remained with the Airstream and happily were not needed for the rest of the weekend!



Map of Georgetown SC Historic District showing the approximate location of some 45 Airstreams taking part in the 3-day rally.



Drone overview of Orange Street showing adjacent parking lots occupied by the rally.

So much for the hard part, the organizational prelude! From this point on from noon Friday, we were able to relax and enjoy Georgetown and the downtown activities through Sunday noon, straight out of our very own front door on Orange Street. Early Friday evening we gathered in the Francis Marion town park by the riverfront where the mayor, Brendan Barber, welcomed and introduced the Police Chief and the town administrators. This was



The South Carolina Coastal Airstream Club is in high spirits at the welcome reception hosted by Georgetown mayor Brendan Barber and senior town officials. The mayor (center rear) is wearing an honorary blue beret and holding the *Airstream Drive* street sign.

truly a major statement by this South Carolina community putting out the red carpet to welcome visitors who are spending time and money downtown over a three day weekend. A conservative estimate suggests \$15,000 was injected into the local economy from this Airstream rally.

Part of the SCCAC outreach was a generous \$1,880 collection from members in support of the local Miss Ruby's Kids, a non-profit early literacy program serving families living in Georgetown County. The Francis Marion Park reception area also featured a brand new Airstream 23 foot Globetrotter from John's RV of Lexington SC that was open to the public throughout the weekend.

Saturday most Airstreamers opened up their rigs for a busy two-hour open house which actually lasted much longer than planned. Many local residents took time to visit our silver homes and talk about their hopes and dreams of enjoying a future RV lifestyle. Several past Airstreamers visited and talked about their past camping experiences with a palpable nostalgia for the silver bullets they once owned.

The SCCAC club members welcomed us in their midst and we shared meals and drinks with friends we had met on previous Alaska and Cajun caravans. New friends and acquaintances extended our greater Airstream family. We checked out as many restaurants as we could including River Room, Big Tuna and Graham's Landing. We stocked up on treats and gifts at the Indigo Bakery and chatted with the team who put together custom Airstream cookies that went into our official Georgetown welcome bag.



The signature dish of the Big Tuna restaurant - the deep fried entire flounder!

Bringing forty Airstream rigs to downtown Georgetown really brings the town alive and it's a win-win situation for the SCCAC folks and for the town businesses and community. The idea of a downtown rally is for Airstreamers to energize downtown and in the same vein enrich business and community activities. With five museums, 14 restaurants within a couple of blocks and dozens of shops and businesses close by, this was the lively and effective revitalization boost for Georgetown.

Downtown rallies are the perfect way to enjoy a short weekend rally. They are just right for working families who have limited time. They gather a wide range of folks with different backgrounds and different ages, without committing to a lengthy

caravan or traveling to distant locations. Similar Silver on the Street rallies have become regular annual events in Havana, FL, York SC, Farmville VA and Brownwood, TX.

It goes without saying that the downtown rally takes a huge amount of organization, and my hat goes off



Night time in the Historic District on Orange Street. Temperatures dropped to the low 40's and a few generators were brought into action.

to Henry Knight who put this together with numerous advance special planning trips to Georgetown, working with the local town council, administration, and the Georgetown Business Association to make this event happen. The devil is always in the details, and Henry knows exactly how to plan for

success. As Henry said, "Our mission was to come with a positive attitude and in turn have a positive impact on business and on the residents of Georgetown. I think Wally Byam's mission would be the same and I think we made him proud. The Airstream Club has a positive impact wherever we travel."

Thank you Chris and Gina Fox, the official photographers for this event, who made available drone photos and selected shots from their collection. Thanks to Jennifer Olsen for the Orange Street photo. You can check out this link to a [video of Streamin on the Harbor](#) event. (The link in case you need it is <https://youtu.be/UdZ93ZbYIWQ>).



Chris & Gina Fox #6674, the official photographers, were in the center of Orange St. We are located on the right, #2381. Unfortunately, due to the tall adjacent building, we did not get the sun 'till after 12 noon, so solar charging was a challenge.

Margaret & David Broad (WBCCI #2381) from Tappahannock Virginia, traveling 8 months of the year since July 2016 in their 2015 Flying Cloud 25 RB *Nuage Volant*. You can email questions or comments to airstream@db26.net Their travel blog is at www.flyingcloud25.blogspot.com and David also publishes an Airstream improvement page at www.facebook.com/airstreamtweaks and created a Gourmet Camping group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gourmetcamping>



A Reluctant Retreat Home

After two consecutive years of having our winter trips south delayed by medical issues, we were finally relaxing and enjoying ourselves in the comfortable Florida weather on schedule. While we missed seeing fellow VAC members such as D.A. & Douglas Powell, Jack O'Regan, and the Kolbs, we did get to enjoy several conversations with Danny & Bobbi Locklair in Melbourne. Everything was going fine and the weather was starting to get warmer when CORVID-19 reared its ugly head! Things stayed relatively normal for a while. Gradually, the frenzy, fueled by endless media commentary, started to take hold. While the saner of us began to keep ourselves semi-isolated, throngs of Floridians, both native and tourist, continued to populate the bars, restaurants and beaches. We began to get nervous! The Canadian snowbirds (there is a fairly large group of them at LYH in Melbourne) started to receive notifications from their insurance carriers through their national health system to return to Canada within 10 days or jeopardize their health care coverage. That was the proverbial straw for us - we headed home, accompanied by throngs of vehicles of all types bearing Canadian license plates. Now we stay sequestered and wait - just like most everyone else in the country. We are confident that, with help from above, we will prevail and normalcy will return!

Lynn & Gary Brink



Sunset at Land Yacht Harbor, Melbourne, FL. We hated to leave this locale but common sense dictated that it would be better to weather the impending storm at home.

2020 RALLY SCHEDULE

APRIL 1 - 5: REGION 3 RALLY - Ocean Lakes Campground, 6001 South Kings Hwy, Myrtle Beach, SC, 877-510-1413. All sites in the H and HH sections are reserved for this rally - make your campground reservations **NOW!** Hosted by Region 3 President John Leake, john@leakesantiques.com. **CANCELLED!**

APRIL 17 - 19: SPRINGTIME BLUEBELL CAMP (Joint Event), Shenandoah River State Park, 350 Daughter of Stars Drive, Bentonville, VA 22610, 540-622-6840, ShenandoahRiver@dcr.virginia.gov. Hosted by Linda Heuer (#149), gheuer@umich.edu. **CANCELLED!**

APRIL 24 - 26: BREAKOUT & MAINTENANCE RALLY (Joint Event), Small Country Campground, 4400 Byrd Mill Road, Louisa, VA, 540-967-2431. Hosted by Tom Carmichael (#110), tomc@sportsimageinc.com. **CANCELLED!**

JUNE 12 - 13: HOUSTONFEST, Cool Breeze Campground, 2330 Edmonds Road, Galax, VA, 276-236-0300, coolbreezecampground.com. This is not an official rally hosted by anyone, it is just a gathering of Airstreamers who enjoy Bluegrass music and are not traveling to the International Rally. Be sure to get your festival tickets in advance via houstonfestgalax.com. **CANCELLED!**

JUNE 20 - 27: INTERNATIONAL RALLY, The Ranch Events Complex, 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, CO. To register please call BARB LANGSTON at club headquarters, 937-596-5211. **CANCELLED!**

AUGUST 2 - 9: GALAX OLD TIME FIDDLER'S RALLY, Cool Breeze Campground, 2330 Edmonds Road, Galax, VA, 276-236-0300, coolbreezecampground.com. Hosted by Region 3, region3airstreamclub.net. Details and fees are available on the region website. Simply make a reservation with the campground, tell them you are with the Airstream group and all other business can be conducted upon arrival at the rally.

AUGUST 13 - 16: VIRGINIA AIRSTREAM CLUB BUSINESS RALLY, Elkins, WV. Further details are forthcoming. Hosted by Jeff Cutright (#109), jcutright4@msn.com.

SEPTEMBER 11 - 13: COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA RALLY, Small Country Campground, 4400 Byrd Mill Road, Louisa, VA, 540-967-2431. Hosted by the Tidewater Airstream Club (#111).

SEPTEMBER 21 - 25: CARAVAN TO SWISS FESTIVAL NATIONAL RALLY, details TBD. Led by Douglas Powell (#109), 434-572-7048, douglas@banisterriver.com.

SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 4: SWISS FESTIVAL NATIONAL RALLY, 2800 Winklepleck Rd NW, Sugarcreek, OH. Directions on how to make a reservation will follow in a later edition.

NOVEMBER 5 - 8: SILVER IN THE STREETS RALLY, Abingdon, VA. Details are still being planned and will be published at a future date. Hosted by Jeff Cutright (#109), jcutright4@msn.com.

DECEMBER 5: HOLIDAY LUNCHEON. This is an event traditionally hosted by the new President. It's details will be determined after elections to be held at the business meeting in August. Hosted by the President (#109).

While we look forward to resuming our club gatherings in August, all we can do is hope and pray that the pandemic currently ravaging the world is conquered by then and life returns to normal.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

APRIL

- 01 Bobbi Locklair
- 02 Jeff Cutright
- 09 Harold Hamlett
- 22 Gladys Kolb
- 28 Guy Sager

MAY

- 05 Jane Sibley
- 07 Steve Lambert
- 10 John & Jane Sibley
- 21 Kay Lambert
- 22 D.A. Powell
- 28 Sam Barnard
- 29 David & Carol Lipps

JUNE

- 02 Richard Bartelt
- 05 Steve & Kay Lambert
- 11 Bob Lee
- 14 Nila Sager
- 16 Junior & Betty Patton
- 22 Bob & Linda Lee
- 27 Frank Bobbitt
- 27 Randy & Xan Rinehart
- 28 Edith Stutts
- 28 Danny & Bobbi Locklair



If your milestone isn't recognized in this column, it's because your information isn't on hand. Forward your important dates (day and month only - no year) to the editor at gbrink1776@gmail.com and it will be included for the appropriate month in future issues.



If I have to wear a face mask, I may as well be happy!

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