



# TARHEEL TRAVELER

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



## PRESIDENTS CORNER

*PHIL DRAKE #5789*

I am writing this note to you on Veterans Day. We have quite a few veterans in our club and I never really get the opportunity to thank them enough for their service. To those men and women in our club who have served our country and to our first responders, we owe you our gratitude and respect. Thank you!

Wow what a great time we had at Ocean Lakes! It was great to see so many long-time & new members. Plus we has some visitors whom we hope will be joining us. WBCCI Immediate Past President Mona Heath joined us as well. The weather was warm, the beach was beautiful and everyone enjoyed the opportunity of getting out with friends both old and new. In our door prize drawings, we distributed over \$750.00 in camping equipment. Unfortunately, we were not able to have our popular low country boil and breakfast meals due to COVID restrictions. I'm warning George Lamb and his cook team to buy extra food next year to cover the pent-up demand!

Seminar leaders Bruce and Marcia Thompson and Randy Hord did a superb job. All four seminars were held outdoors and had big crowds.

I believe bingo was a big hit as we had 47 players and a ton of "white elephant" (regifted) prizes given away. Our new reusable bingo cards worked well and were easy to sanitize after use. We will be doing more bingo games in the future as long as it's fun for everyone.

In our business meeting, we elected our club officers for next year. We will induct them in a Zoom session next month as we have cancelled our holiday luncheon due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please join us on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM. Zoom connection details later in this newsletter.

Thanksgiving is upon us and even though this year has been and continues to be one of the most physically and emotionally challenging, we still have much to be thankful for. I hope each of you has a great Thanksgiving at home or on the road.

Be safe out there.

*~Phil*

## 2020 RALLIES

*BRUCE THOMPSON #5027, 1ST VP*

Hello Streamers! If you missed Ocean Lakes, you'll hear all about what a wonderful time everyone had there. We had about 43 rigs attending. The weather cooperated (unlike Boone & Sanctuary), and our Hosts – George & Margie Lamb and Steve & Jan Thompson scheduled a fantastic agenda.... and all within restrictions of Covid. We forgot to Thank our Hosts during that busy rally, but they did a magnificent job under pandemic conditions. Thank You Hosts.

On that same topic: Because of our current restrictions, there are 2 gatherings that we will miss (unless conditions improve!) in the upcoming months – our Holiday Luncheon, normally held early December, and our season opener Luncheon, usually attended in mid-February. Both venues for these gatherings have understandably opted to forbid groups for the safety and welfare of all during the State’s Covid restrictions. So we’ll miss seeing our camping family – But we’ll also miss passing the Sign-up Sheets for Hosting for next year’s rallies. Bruce Bodenstein, your 2nd VP, has composed an exciting array of rally venues for the camping season, strategically scattered all over the Carolinas, Virginia, and Tennessee – sometimes scheduling multiple events within a month (take a look: <https://airstreamclub.org/events?from=&to=&type=-1&state=-1&club=45876&list=1>).

While there is nothing wrong with having a host-less rally, it becomes so much more fun to gather – masked and physically separated, to enjoy our camping friends with games and activities, tours and sites. We ARE a social group!

Our WebMaster Ed Hall to the rescue! Ed has a place to sign up as Host for each rally: <https://form.jotform.com/202565408021143> We encourage two couples hosting for each rally, so the effort is miniscule. All that is needed is to schedule one or two social hours, usually around 4:00 PM – preferably inside a community building or picnic shelter if available. If you want to go above and beyond, plan a group meal and offer nearby locations for places to go/see/do for those unfamiliar with the area. That’s it! So I encourage you to please sign up online to be a host.

Camper-Care: For those in the freezing zone during the next few months – don’t forget to [Winterize](#) that Camper! Do all that you can to prevent frozen pipes.

**Warning about Rallies that fill up quickly:** James Island in March 2021, and Ocean Lakes in November 2021. (Remember, James Island will NOT hold sites for our group – you have to call and get your reservation for that specific weekend March 18 – 21, paying up front.) One member called to discover James Island was full for our weekend, but a site opened up just a few days later. So if they tell you they are full, call back again in a few days. Some of those “other brands” may cancel their reservations. Just a few days ago, six sites became available and our members pounced on half of them! Ocean Lakes, being our highest-attended rally, fills up every year since folks make reservations for the *following* year when they leave! For Ocean Lakes, *always* call instead of going online, tell them you are with the Carolinas Airstream Club for the best rate. The early birds get the best sites. Be an Early Bird!

Check the [Carolinas Club Website](#) Often: If we have to cancel any rallies due to state and local restrictions, as we did earlier this year, that website would be the place to see any last minute updates. Also, until this is all behind us, we’ll be asking for everyone to mask and separate for everyone’s safety. Also, if you don’t feel comfortable masking & mixing at a distance – Don’t Go. Thanks for your consideration on this.

Hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving. Let’s count our Blessings. Stay Safe!

~ Bruce T

1<sup>st</sup> VP

## 2021 RALLIES

BRUCE BODENSTEIN #8168, 2ND VP

Greetings all,

On the Saturday before launch of our last (and according to many, the most popular) rally of the season, our plans were rudely interrupted when my slightly worn body decided to rebel. Recalling the words of my faithful doc on more than one occasion “if it’s not bothering you, don’t mess with it”. Well, it started bothering *and* messing with me in a big way!

After more than 8 hours sitting in the emergency waiting room, at midnight Saturday I was finally admitted. A minor surgery Sunday morning and a couple more days in the hospital had me well on the way to relief and recovery. A week later, I am doing great and I really appreciated those of you who have reached out.

All reports are that the Ocean Lakes Rally was a resounding success with perfect weather and everyone behaving themselves socially speaking, Was it a record attendance? It sure sounds like it to me but I will be waiting for the official word on that.

If you were at Ocean Lakes, then hopefully you managed to get your hands on the little biz cards showing the 2021 rally schedule. I’m not sure who came up with that idea but I for one think it’s a great little reminder for our wallets and bulletin boards. We have *plenty*, so ask if you need some!

I have been watching a flurry of rally signups which is encouraging, and it seems that most of us have determined that this COVID thing is not going to completely shut our lives down. Obviously, we all have different risk thresholds so let’s all mind our social distancing and be kind and safe with each other.

I do note that we still need hosts for virtually all the 2021 rallies so guess what my next bandwagon is going to look like. If you want to listen in, my next conversation with Claire will go something like this; “Honey, remember that cool campground we visited and decided to add to our rally

schedule?” “I’m thinking we better sign on as hosts before somebody else grabs it!”

Thanks again to everyone who offered great suggestions and ideas for rally sites. It was a tremendous help.

Have a safe Thanksgiving holiday and don’t forget to winterize your Airstream!

~ Bruce B

2nd VP

## MEMBERSHIP

DALE DOWLER #1972, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

We have **149** rigs in our club!!

Our newest members (details in Evernote):

- **Sally and Barry Halevy** from Davidson, NC, and their 2021 25' International
- **Steve and Maggie Macomber** from Charlotte, NC, and their 2021 30' Flying Cloud
- **Rick and Marsha Morgan** from Raleigh, NC, and their 2019 25' International
- **Martin & Lou Green** from Wilmington, NC and their 2018 28' International
- Associate members **Lew & Ty Walker** from Myrtle Beach, SC

Welcome *all!*



Renew by **Dec 31** to be in the 2021 WBCCI Membership Directory!

## A NEW WBAC BENEFIT!

### PASSPORT AMERICA

How many times have you and your traveling partner, after a long day of driving, are searching to find a campground for the night and decide on staying what is advertised as an RV Resort, only to discover you have landed in the campground twilight zone! Let's face it, they are out there. Now, thanks to a new partnership between [Passport America](#) and your [Airstream Club International](#), help is available to avoid these less than desirable campgrounds during your travels.

In a collaborated effort lead by [Region 2](#) President Richard Short and Corporate Manager Lori Plummer, the expansion of membership benefits has been a key focal point. Recently Corporate Headquarters has reached and entered an agreement with Passport America to offer ACI members an exclusive opportunity to save money and become members of this premiere RV Camping Club.

Passport America currently has 1800 participating campgrounds in the United States, Canada and Mexico, which offer a 50% discount off regular camping fees. If you are frequently traveling with your Airstream a 50% discount is very substantial. Good Sam only offers a 10% discount.

The **Passport America** membership is loaded with benefits. Their highly acclaimed app for your iPhone and other mobile devices is available from the App store. Not only is it super user-friendly, it's full of useful information such as: nearby parks, search parks, list parks by city, state and country, travel routing and much more.

Other membership benefits include the most current **Passport America International Camping Directory** in print. A monthly newsletter by email, access to helpful member support service via email or toll free (800) 283-7183 and Passport America participating parks information and updates available for you 24/7. These are just a few of the many benefits available to members of **Passport America**.

The advertised rate for **Passport America** membership is \$44.00 for 12 month period. However as a member of the Airstream travel Club, your membership would be \$44.00 for an **18** month period which would include both new and renewal memberships.

Let's explore a trip to Florida by a couple of intrepid Airstream travelers who are planning to spend time in Naples. As they plan their destination, one simply opens the Passport America app and selects the city of Naples in Florida. Instantly displayed are five different RV campgrounds in the Passport America network. Each campground listing their normal rate and the **Passport America** (PA) rate. In our example the daily rate is \$53.00, the PA rate is \$26.50. There is also a link to the campground website, phone number, map, address and other pertinent information.

The value of being a member of **Passport America** truly speaks for itself. At a **50%** savings on camping fees, your stay can be extended or simply have more cash for discretionary use. In just a couple of nights using your membership you will recoup your yearly membership fee and enjoy your travels that much more.

This new partnership with **Passport America** is another effort by your Airstream Travel Club to expand and enhance our member travel experience.

Larry Madden #3909  
Members Benefit Team



**Nancy Kueffer** #10367 volunteered to be our new Email Administrator. Thank you, Nancy!



John Plaxco #4736 passed away last month. John and his wife Joyce were avid travelers in their Airstream, and he was the CAC. President in 2001.

Gary Bradley's mother passed away. Our condolences to Gary and Julia #6146

2<sup>ND</sup> VP Bruce Bodenstein #8168 had hernia surgery. Ouch! Shari Hord #5724 had oral surgery - a gum graft. Double ouch!

Ann Hall #2693 had back surgery last month, which relieved her pain, but created new pain due to the inserted paddles rubbing against a bone spur. She will have another surgery this month to rectify that issue. Hang in there, Ann!

Ken Dorn's #3139 granddaughter Abby broke her leg and couldn't join us at Ocean Lakes. We missed her help with Bingo!

And if 2020 hasn't been bad enough, the recent rains have flooded much of our area. I hope everyone is safe and dry.

I have been feeling sad for our members who have recently sold their Airstreams due to a spouse's death or declining health. Leaving the club can be like losing family. So I was heartened to read in last month's Blue Beret that such folks can continue their memberships, as long as they don't replace their Airstream with a non-Airstream. Good to know!

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**"I haven't been everywhere, but it's on my list."**

~ Susan Sontag

## MEETING MINUTES

Carolinas Airstream Club Membership Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2020

Opened by Phil Drake

Present at roll call are Phil Drake, President, Bruce Thompson, Vice-president, Marcia Thompson, Corresponding secretary and Newsletter Editor, Margie Lamb, Recording secretary, Cherylanne Weaver, Treasurer, and Ed Hall, Webmaster. Absent are Bruce Bodenstein, Larry Brodsky

Induction of New Members- Ten new members were inducted. We welcome them all.

- Ricky and Marsha Morgan
- Don and Sue Burns
- Larry and Linda Troxell
- Robert and Jody Bazemore
- Bob Hoffman and Wayne Clark



Election of new officers

Here is our ballot of officers for 2021. Thanks, Rocky Johnson for chairing the nominating committee

President – Bruce Thompson

- 1st Vice President- Bruce Bodenstein
- 2nd Vice President- Ricky Wilcox
- Treasurer- Cherylanne Weaver
- Recording Secretary- Margie Lamb
- Corresponding Secretary & Newsletter Editor - Marcia Thompson
- Director (2 yr. term) - Larry Brodsky
- Director (2 yr. term) - Elaine Myers
- Director (1 yr. remaining of 2 yr. term) - Susanne Schneider
- Director (1 yr. remaining of 2 yr. term) - Greg Wilson

- Webmaster (Board appointed) - Ed Hall
- Membership Chairperson (Board appointed) - Dale Dowler

Motion was made to accept the ballot; the vote was unanimously affirmative. Offices will be installed virtually on **December 5, 2020 at 1 pm**

Our last rally of the year ended with a drawing for door prizes generously donated by [Airstream of SC](#) and [Out of Doors Mart](#). When you go into either business, remember to thank them for their support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margie Lamb, recording secretary

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## FINAL 2020 BUSINESS AND 2021 OFFICER INDUCTION

You are cordially invited to our upcoming club (virtual) membership meeting on **December 5th at 1 PM**. This is our last event of 2020, and we hope you can join us!

This meeting will be a Zoom meeting that will begin with a short business meeting and then induction of officers for the 2021 year. Past WBCCI President Jim Cocke #4822 will conduct the induction ceremony.

Zoom

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87836194914>

For those who cannot join by Internet, dial-in access for the audio portion only is **301-715-8592**, meeting ID **878 3619 4914**

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## HAM RADIO NEWS!

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

*Congratulations!*

**KN4AMN** Eddie Conrad #3058!

Our clubs latest General licensee!

## MOTORIZED BIKE RACK



**Interested?**

Contact Chuck Fishel #1333

yet. Also, due to bylaw changes this past summer, members can only have one home club. If you have not yet renewed for 2021, you can contact HQ and a staff member will walk you through the process.

If you find problems within your **data** profile that you cannot update, please email [assist@airstreamclub.org](mailto:assist@airstreamclub.org).

If you would like to give feedback about the design, flow, challenges navigating the site, or provide suggestions for additional tools, email [feedback@airstreamclub.org](mailto:feedback@airstreamclub.org).

See you down the road!

HQ team

## ACI MEMBERS ONLY

It's here! Welcome to the **members-only** section of the [Airstream Club International](https://www.airstreamclubinternational.com)'s website. Explore your profile and see the sites. All of the data did not come through the import into the new database as cleanly as we would have liked. HQ has taken on the task of cleaning up this data. Membership history, club history, caravan history, and officer history will be the next phases of updates.

For those members with multiple big red numbers (BRN), we do not have an electronic process to renew



### 2020 Ocean Lakes Rally Door Prizes

*masked and physically separate*