



## PRESIDENTS CORNER

*PHIL DRAKE #5789*

Season's Greetings Everyone!

This is my final "President's Corner". Being your club president this year has been an honor and I want to thank each of you for your patience and understanding during, what has to be, the most unusual camping year the club's sixty year history.

We started this crazy year by learning the pandemic was getting out of control at our first rally in March at James Island SC. As we were leaving after the rally, the campground was shutting down and telling campers to leave immediately. The club cancelled some events, in the following months, in an abundance of caution and were forced to do so by local and state officials in others. We did however keep the camping spirit alive with email, our website and Zoom.

While this year was a challenge, different and a bit scary at times, we have come through it and are starting to camp once again. We are not going back to normal soon however as the virus continues to disrupt our communities and nation. Hopefully 2021 will be better. A vaccine is on the way and perhaps by spring we will see some relief from the general shutdown of society as we know it. Our family, faith and friends will carry us through whatever the future holds.

On a brighter note, the club has a top notch leadership team ready to steer the club through whatever comes our way. President elect Bruce Thompson and First Lady elect

Marcia are experienced, enthusiastic and ready to lead. We are fortunate to have them and the other officers and leaders in our club. They will ensure the club continues to grow and maintain the highest standards in the WBCCI organization. Past WBCCI President Jim Cocke installed our new leadership team during our Zoom meeting on December fifth and they assume their new responsibilities on January first.

The 2021 club rally season starts once again in Charleston SC at James Island County Park. Do not be discouraged that a camping spot is not available when you check. Keep calling the campground as cancellations happen almost daily and you will get a spot if you keep checking.

We'll see you out on the road soon I hope. I'll be in the trailer flying the brand new "Past President" flag.

Cathy and I wish each of you Happy Holidays!

*Phil*

## INCOMING PRESIDENT

*BRUCE THOMPSON #5027*

Happy Holidays, Streamers!

As I write this, North Carolina has entered a new "a" "modified stay-at-home order" phase prohibiting anyone from being out between 10:00 PM and 5:00AM.

While that may not affect most of us, it is yet another reminder that we need to make lifestyle changes due to this pandemic. Please be safe during these holidays. We'd like to see you down the road at the next rally!

Looking on the positive side – we have a wonderful agenda of rallies planned for 2021, thanks to our 1st VP-elect Bruce Bodenstein. You can see all the events (and more) on our website: <https://airstreamclub.org/carolinas> (think “AirstreamClub dot Org slash Carolinas”). He has offered to send the 2021 schedule card to you, if you didn't get yours down at Ocean Lakes. Simply contact him & let him know you would like the cards.

**Make your reservations early!** Now, why is that? Because some of these venues fill up quickly – some campgrounds only *hold* a certain number of sites for us, if any site at all. Now, here's how it works: **1)** You see a rally that you want to attend; **2)** Call the campground and make a reservation; **3)** Go to our website to tell the hosts you're coming & pay the rally fee. That 3rd Step is Very Important – because: **A)** the Hosts need to know how many to plan for meals / games / events / tours / shelter capacity / etc. **B)** We're attempting to refrain from handling cash at the rallies – so you conveniently pay the rally fee on the website, and **C)** We'll have a Rig Count to report for all the rallies – most campgrounds will NOT provide this information so we don't know who is coming until you tell the host you're coming.

**151 Rigs in the Club!** You are an Active bunch of campers, and you are the reason this club is growing in leaps and bounds! It's *your* participation, *your* attendance, *your* involvement that has made this happen. **BUT – ONLY 2/3 HAVE RENEWED FOR 2021!** Did you forget?! So, if you haven't already

– get on this site and click the button: <https://airstreamclub.org/current-members/membership-renewal>

**Hosting.** So you've made your reservations and did the RSVP on the website. Now what? Well, please consider signing up for Hosting at one of the rallies. Due to COVID-19, we've missed our Holiday and February Luncheons where we normally pass around the Host Sign-Up form. So we're depending on you to sign up on the website. You don't have to perform a song and dance for the group's entertainment – just coordinate a place or a shelter for a social hour, maybe plan a dogs & brats meal (club pays), or research the area for restaurants & sites to visit. That's it! Click here to host a rally (we normally look for 2 members per rally): <https://form.jotform.com/202565408021143>  
Thanks! Oh, and I forgot to mention – rally fees are waived for Hosts 😊

**It takes a Village.** Down at Ocean Lakes, the membership voted in a new slate of officers for 2021. I'd like to say THANKS to All for your efforts in 2020, and the folks that have stepped up and said “I Do” to taking a role and helping the club in some form or fashion for 2021. There's a lot going on behind the scenes that make a big difference – Hospitality Chair, Facebook Admin, the Digital Team, Membership Chair, Email Admin, Newsletter Editor, Online Store Manager, Board members, etc., etc. These folks are doing an important part that makes this whole machine work. Thank You!

**Virtual Rally!** After the Holidays, we'll have a Campfire Virtual Rally. It would be great to see everyone again, albeit on screen. Also, maybe it would be a good time to have a new member session, where

they get to tell the club about themselves, where they live, which Airstream they have, etc. Look for emails for date and time.

Have a Merry Christmas, Streamers – And a Safe & Happy New Year. See you in January!

~ Bruce T

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## HELLO FROM YOUR 2021 1<sup>ST</sup> VP

BRUCE BODENSTEIN #8168, 1ST VP

Hello and Happy Holidays to everyone. I trust that your Thanksgiving celebration was a pleasant time for all even if the dining room crowd was not as large as in prior years. Heck, that just meant more pie for you, right?

It was fun to meet up via Zoom the other day. Great to see everyone. Thanks Phil, for arranging that, and a double thanks for your leadership this year. It's been a wild ride, but you remained calm through it all. Bruce T has some big shoes to fill but I'm betting he's up to it. That reminds me, I need to give him a call and find out what I'm supposed to do as 1<sup>st</sup> VP in 2021. I'm thinking pretty much nothing after this year but I'm sort of worried about what Rocky didn't tell me.

Back to reality. I've been noticing a nice uptick in 2021 reservations coming through. Thank you for that. Claire and I are booked for most of the venues next year and we are really looking forward to the rallies.

Consider hosting, especially if you haven't done it. One way to handle this task is to "buddy up" with another person or couple. This approach is foolproof and dirt simple. All it would take is a short "meet-up" by Zoom, phone or even in person if you are close by, to bounce a few ideas around. Our crowd is a cinch to please. Depending on the Covid situation, some sort of loosely packed group meal *might* be possible. It would be helpful to identify a few activities in

the area that would be of interest to folks and possibly plan a group excursion to one or more of them. Bonfires are big hits, and it would be easy to spread out around a fire. In fact, hosting is easier than ever in today's world as all of us are most comfortable either by ourselves or in small groups.

Via Zoom I mentioned the Rally Cards for 2021 that I had printed. A bunch got distributed at Ocean Lakes in November. For those of you who did not make it to the beach, since we aren't meeting for our traditional holiday meal, if you need some cards, shoot me a text at 704-277-2018 and include your address and I will mail you some cards. Email also works at [brucebodenstein@gmail.com](mailto:brucebodenstein@gmail.com).

Have a safe and fun holiday season.

~ Bruce B

1st VP

When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on. -*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

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## SEASON OF FIRSTS!

RICKY WILCOX #5016 2ND VP

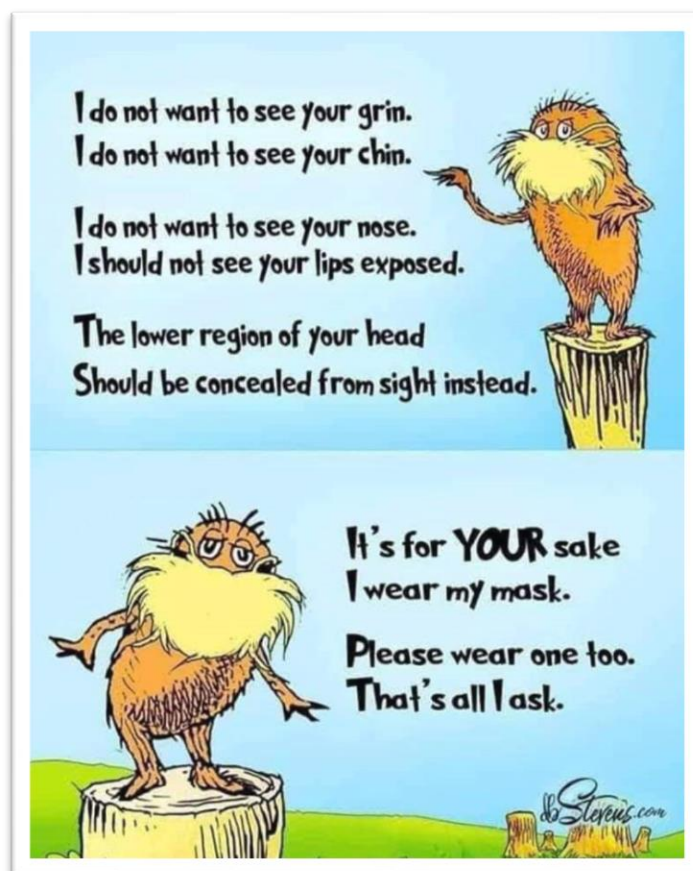
Some of my firsts were challenging, most were positive and fun. We all have had challenges throughout 2020 and had to cancel many well thought out plans. Our first rally, also where we joined the club, was at Ocean Lakes about five years ago. This is my first letter to the Tarheel Traveler Newsletter as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, which is another first for me. My main duty is to plan the rallies for 2022 which is, you guessed it, another first. If anyone has any ideas where you might like to see a rally whether it's a new place or a revisit, please feel free to send me your thoughts and ideas. You can call, text, or email me any ideas you might have. We attended our first International rally in Doswell, VA in 2019, where it was very hot that week, if you weren't there. We enjoyed that rally very much and began to realize just how many others there were that enjoyed travel as much as we do. We attended the Alumalina Rally in Marion, NC this year for the first time and my wife, Joan and I hosted our first rally there. Hosting our club members at Alumalina is for a much

smaller group, and can be as simple or elaborate as you want it to be. It's usually only twenty people or so at the most. For anyone thinking hosting would be too hard, it isn't at all and there's lots of members ready, willing, and eager to help you. All you need to do is ask and you'll have all the help you need. As I mentioned, this will be my first opportunity in serving our club and I'm looking forward to it. As in hosting, I know all I have to do is ask for any help that I need and there are so many eager to pitch in and help with whatever I need.

I am putting together a list of places to start following up on for 2022. I know right now that seems so far away but it will be here before you know it. I think I will leave with one last thought for everyone. All the rallies and events throughout the year don't just happen, they have to be planned by someone. All the caravans don't just happen, they need leaders as well. There are many opportunities to do your part in helping out. Please consider where you might be able to serve. Without volunteers, the club wouldn't exist. I don't want to write a novel so I will say good day for now. I hope to see everyone down the road sometime soon. I hope you and your family have a safe, happy, and blessed holiday season!

Thanks Ricky & Joan Wilcox

(704) 678-8507 or [Rickywilcox@carolina.rr.com](mailto:Rickywilcox@carolina.rr.com)



## MEMBERSHIP

DALE DOWLER #1972, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

We have **151** rigs in our club!! That's about 300 people!

Our newest members (details in Evernote):

- **Terry & Benson Sheally** from Mooresville, NC and their 2017 27' International Serenity
- **David Rankin** from Winston-Salem, NC and his 2018 22' Sport

Welcome *all!*





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

## NEW PRODUCT REVIEW

LARRY BRODSKY # 2371

### MicroAir Easy Touch RV Thermostat

I just had to communicate my review of a product I picked up during Black Friday specials. This product is made by the same company that brought us Easy Start soft start controllers for our air conditioner/heat pumps. But, it is a 21st century version of a thermostat for your RV.

The thermostat comes in several models to plug and play depending on your model A/C. Most of us have Dometic units with the CCC2 control. The installation instructions are clear and easy. Drill two holes for the mount, after removing the old thermostat and back plate. Screws and screw covers are even provided for the old holes. You just plug the cable into the new thermostat, clip it to the wall and it is ready to go.

What is so cool about this thermostat? First, it connects to your smart phone via Bluetooth and/or WiFi. MicroAir is improving the firmware and functions and updates are done using the connection. A big advantage for me is that I can control the thermostat from my phone in the rear of the trailer while my wife is asleep in the front of the trailer, where the thermostat is located. But you should also be able to remotely monitor and control temperature using WiFi. Great if you have a pet in the trailer or want to cool the trailer down before returning from a shopping trip.

Another advantage is this thermostat allows 4 schedule points, unlike the 2 with the existing thermostat. So, you can set the furnace to warm things up before you wake up, change when you are up and dressed, and cool down before going to bed. Finally, this is really intuitive to use with icons to push and easy operation. I always had to have my manual handy for the CCC2 to set schedules, not so for Easy Touch as you simply push Schedule and the display is clear and easy to use. No wondering how to change modes, etc.

I had some questions for their tech support and, via email, they are responsive and timely, just like they are with Easy Start. They tell me they are planning some updates such as weather display, but as a thermostat, this is a great modification to replace your existing unit.

LARRY

# NEED A CB FOR A CARAVAN?

THE CLUB HAS ONE TO BORROW!



**Uniden** PRO505XL  
CB Radio

**40 Channel CB Radio**

**PUBLIC ADDRESS (PA) FUNCTION**  
Connect to an external PA speaker for amplified announcements.

**EXTERNAL SPEAKER JACK**  
Plug in an external speaker for better sound.

**INSTANT CHANNEL 9**  
Quickly set the radio to emergency/Channel 9.

**EXTERNAL PA JACK**  
Allows connection of a PA speaker.

**SIGNAL / RF POWER INDICATOR**  
Check the relative strength of incoming transmissions.

A magnetic mount TRAM 703-HC Center Load CB Antenna is also available. Contact Bruce Thompson. 336-466-1516 or [bthompson@yadtel.net](mailto:bthompson@yadtel.net)



## RALLY 'ROUND OUR CAMPFIRE!

ELAINE MYERS #16767

[quirkyquilter@pemtel.net](mailto:quirkyquilter@pemtel.net)

We are sad to share the passing of a past member, Frank Yost. Frank and his wife, Joyce were avid travelers in their Airstream and hosted a few luncheons for members of the club at their family vineyard in Salisbury.

George Lamb #1190 needs your thoughts and prayers, he's had his second knee replaced this week

Bill and Gloria Hayes #5618 have moved to Austin, Texas, and Sandy and Susan Browder #2365 have moved to Florida. Enjoy your new homes. We will miss you!

Jesse Wilson (Phil and Jill #4823) made Eagle Scout! We are proud of you!

Peace and Joy to everyone this Holiday Season!

E!

Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more. ~ *Dr. Seuss*





*It's finally here!*

Get exclusive early access to the remarkable documentary about Wally Byam's life and his vision for travel freedom. The film captures Wally's vision and the innovative, adventurous spirit that has carried the iconic American brand and its community of passionate road warriors through a century of exploration.

**Dec 12, 2020 – Jan 3, 2021**

After unlocking, you have 7 days to start watching.  
Once you begin, you'll have 24 hours to finish.  
Stream ALUMINATION exclusively for \$11.00.

[Access Film](#)

## MEETING MINUTES

MARGIE LAMB #1190

### **CAC Officer Installation December 5, 2020**

Call to order & Welcome by President Phil Drake

Officer Rollcall by Margie Lamb-

Phil Drake, President; Bruce Thompson, 1<sup>st</sup> VP; Bruce Bodenstein, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Marcia Thompson, Corresponding Secretary; Margie Lamb; Recording Secretary; Cherylanne Weaver, Treasurer; Larry Brodsky, Director, 2-year term; Elaine Myers, Director, 2-year term; Susanne Schneider, 1 year remaining; Greg Wilson, 1 year remaining; these were all present.

Recognize any new members- Renee and John Hoffman, Benson and Terry Sheally, and Steve and Maggie Macomber. Welcome!

Recognition of long-time members (Stars Report) – Jack and Susie Arndt, Monroe Bowles, John and Sharon Carriker, Stan and Sandra Cross, Dale and Sandy Dowler, Charlie Fishel, Bert and Dot Kalet, Martha Kerns, Larry and Jenny Trueman, Jim and Susan Turner.

Treasurers report- simple amount on hand and expected (just a ballpark) expenses for next year. Our upcoming needs are new officer flags at \$600.00, award and plaques \$200.00, postage \$30.00, Supplies \$30.00, Misc. supplies \$150.00, donations for deceased members \$200.00, inventory of our on-line store unknown, Holiday luncheon cost for long-time members, camping reservation fees unknown (pending board approval), Shelby rally may have some extra expense that is undetermined. Our expenses for 2021 are expected to be in the neighborhood of between \$2,000.00 and \$3,000.00.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP update on 2021 rallies- Bruce Bodenstein gave an extensive update on the number of units signed up for each rally. Bruce emphasized the need for hosts for rallies and the wallet cards with dates and sign-up information on them. If you would like to host a rally or need a wallet card, please send your request with your name and address by text to Bruce Bodenstein at 790-427-2018.

Introduction of new officers with some comments- Phil noted that the new officers were duly elected at Ocean Lakes rally in November 2020.

Installation of newly elected officers was done by Past International President Jim Cocke, first installing the new President, Bruce Thompson, followed by installation of the remaining officers and directors.

Remarks from new president- Bruce Thompson- expressed thanks to Phil Drake for his excellent leadership in a very tough year due to the pandemic. Bruce then reported on Ocean Lakes with emphasis on safety and encouraged a continuation of safe procedure at rallies for next year. Look to the website for news on the rallies. He encouraged everyone to consider signing up for hosting rallies. We have 150 rigs currently, 2/3 have renewed for next year. So please, if you have not yet renewed, please do. We may

have a virtual rally in January and February in place of our luncheons.

Kudos to stellar work on the part of Marcia Thompson, Ed Hall, and Dale Dowler. Phil states this has been a challenging year. Marcia Thompson gets a gold medal for our newsletter. Ed Hall has been a fantastic webmaster. Dale Dowler continues magnificent work as membership chair. Thanks to Wayne Clark for taking the new position of store manager.

Monroe moved to adjourn, Susanne seconded. Good wishes were shared all around. It was good to see everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie M. Lamb, recording secretary

## HAM RADIO NEWS!

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

### The ISS is loaded with hams!

The SpaceX Dragon capsule Resilience, carrying four radio amateurs, autonomously docked on November 17.

L to R - Shannon Walker, KD5DXB, Victor Glover, KI5BKC, Michael Hopkins, KF5LJG, and Soichi Noguchi  
KD5TVP



## RALLY HOPPING 101

*ELAINE MYERS #16767*

Did you know that your membership in the WBCCI entitles you to sign up for ANY club rally anywhere in the country...or world? It's true! So you should try taking advantage of the opportunities. Scott and I have done so and really enjoyed the experience. As a matter of fact, our first rally was with this group at Virginia Highland Haven, only weeks after we purchased our Airstream, and had not joined a local club. We felt so welcomed that we joined that very weekend! And one year we altered our West Coast trip itinerary to include several rallies that were near our route and in the right time frame. Yes, it is a little scary to attend a rally where you know absolutely no one! But have you been to any of our rallies where someone is from another club, or just by coincidence is staying at the same campground? They are treated like special guests, and Scott and I have experienced that elsewhere as well. Just bring goodies to happy hour and the potlucks, and you're golden! Still a bit dubious? Start out with checking the rally schedule in our local Region 3. It's easy to do on our new website. And you will probably see some familiar faces at those rallies. Or maybe you will be visiting family (post Covid!) in another state - check the rally schedule there and make the trip doubly fun. Wintering in Florida or Texas? There are usually winter rallies in the warmer climates. Always wanted to sightsee in a particular location? Schedule a trip around a local rally - you will get the inside scoop on what to see and where to eat by schmoozing with the locals. Remember, Airstreamers are one big family, with some relatives you just haven't met yet!

*Elaine*



## OUR OLD HOME HAS A NEW HOME!

*Jim and Debbie #4822*

Just before COVID-19 concerns manifested, Jim and Debbie decided they would start construction on a home in southern Ashe County. They'd traveled and lived in their 25' CCD International Airstream over thirteen years. Although not finished with traveling, Jim and Deb wanted to create a home to which they could return and welcome their children and grandchildren.

Yep, Jim and Deb have built a home for their Airstream. A full size (10' high) basement/garage is underneath a highly energy-efficient all electric 1,200sf home. [Deltec Homes of Asheville](#) has been creating high-quality homes for decades.



Many of us have seen their round homes, especially in Coastal areas. Recently Deltec added rectangular homes with the same meticulous attention to structural integrity, energy conservation, and easy living.

Jim and Deb are thrilled to offer courtesy parking with 30a power, water, and dump at their new home. It sits among walking trails in their 17 acre wooded site. The site has easy access to the highway but is distant enough to provide dark skies, privacy and quiet. No backing required, they built a 70 foot diameter parking pad tested and proven with 34' and shorter Airstream trailers.

