



# FTCAC Pirate FYI's December, 2020



## Officer Installation Details

The FTCAC 2021 Officers were installed individually via phone in November by Past President **Alicia Rafter**.

President Jon Liversedge	November 6, 2020	10:25 am
Director Sue Wendt	November 6, 2020	3:10 pm
Secretary Roxanne Peebles	November 6, 2020	3:55 pm
Treasurer Blair LittleJohn	November 11, 2020	8:15 am
Director Jill Ricketts	November 17, 2020	2:45 pm

We thank these members for offering their talents, efforts and time to the Club. Please support them as they face a challenging year trying to plan and carry out activities for the group! **We still need a Vice President!**

## WBCCI Membership Renewal — Dues are Due!

All International renewals are being handled through the Jackson Center WBCCI Headquarters. Go to [airstreamclub.org](http://airstreamclub.org); under "Current Members," click on "Renew Your Membership." From there scroll through and fill out the form as required. FTCAC is listed as Florida Treasure Coast Airstream Club. International dues are \$75 and FTCAC dues are \$5, for a total of \$80. Payment by credit card is easy and secure. Affiliate Members have received bills from the Treasurer.

## New Members

We welcome new members **John and Beverly Martin** from Palm City, Florida, and **Michael Tolland** from Orpinton, Kent, UK. We look forward to hearing from them and meeting them in the coming year.

## Alert

After arriving home from camp-hosting on the Blue Ridge Parkway, **Blair LittleJohn** wrote: "During the summer we had a problem with the front air conditioner. It is a heat pump/cooling system. It was showing an error on the electronic thermostat. The a/c would not produce any heat but it would turn on the furnace. We had plenty of heat during the cold weather but sure did use a lot of propane. I made an appointment at RV One (the successor to JD Sanders) in Alachua to have it fixed on our way home from the mountains. We were an hour early and they

immediately put a young man on the job. It only took a few minutes for me to discover that neither he nor his service manager had any idea what a heat pump was so we were out of there very quickly.”

The message is: RV One in Gainesville/Alachua is perhaps not the best place to have your Airstream serviced. With so many of the Airstream dealers striving to make good impressions and to give good service, a few bad apples can affect the whole barrel.

### **Tidbits**

In response to our recent email wishing **Morris Foreman** a Happy Birthday, we received the following from **Norma**. “Having a great day. Neighbors hung birthday balloons on front porch when we were at Morris's sports club wiener roast outdoors, where everyone sang happy birthday to him. Thanks for remembering.”

### **From Lea and Rob Stanton**

“Whew! We just rook a delightful trip on Mr. Toad’s Wild Ride. For you uninitiated, that was a Magic Kingdom ride some years ago. We never understood why it was retired so we recreated it. As we sat in the truck ready for departure, Rob asked why he did not hear the house air conditioner activate. 4 1/2 hours later we were departing. Always grateful to our local company who accommodates us in our time of need. Heading to Travelers Rest near Tampa, our GPS steered us wrong. We should have realized when we crossed railroad tracks, road turned dirt, and we heard banjo music. Rob made an incredible backup and many K turns without asking me to get out to direct with a dozen junk yard dogs keeping us company. We found our way in total darkness, with the help of our phones. A delightful TR resident arrived in his golf cart to escort us to our campsite. There are a number of members in our club who live there but with time limitations, we had only a chance to visit two. The site escort returned on his bike to invite us to watch his group sail their remote control sailboats. So exciting!

We pushed on to Stephen Foster State Park for a comfortable night in a site which fit us without having to disconnect. They were stringing lights and decorating for Christmas. Wish we could have stayed longer, but on to Big Lagoon State Park in Pensacola. Our first visit there and we could not have been luckier with our site. (It was a bit discouraging to check-in and be handed evacuation information, but ETA was making most uncomfortable.) We could hear the water and walk to the trail. We reluctantly drove through Sally's remnants on our last trip. Sadly, Sally had caused so much damage all over the region. We had no idea. Toppled fences, blue roofs, downed trees, roadside piles of household debris.

On the plus side we were in the Blue Angels practice flight path. It was so exciting for me! I had memories of all the time I lived on NASs and never blinked an eye as planes flew over. It was actually relaxing! The NAS museum was closed. We have seen it but look forward to our next visit. We took a side trip to Mystic Springs, the Airstream-only park North of I-10. Quiet, inexpensive, all hook-up, just show up. They had some older folks came for 3 months just to escape the Covid risk. The host did their shopping. We also found our way to Flora-Bama Bar. It is a well known dive split by the state lines. Does that mean they need two liquor licenses? Everything is mostly outdoors under umbrellas. Rob had a traditional taco meal but I went all in. My very first oysters! Cooked with some kinda goop on them. Definitely an acquired taste. Happy I did it, but will be a while before I try it again.

Where to go? [Hurricane] Eta had everyone's attention. Luckily, our house-sitter Kaili intercepted a message at home that our next stop at Suwannee River State Park had been cancelled. Florida SPs in the area were closed so again where to sleep. We finally settled into a residential park East of Tallahassee where we had tented when our son was going to FSU. Florida State Parks still closed so, heading east, we chose a private park where our club had once had a rally. I suspect Rob was secretly delighted as, although we did not have to, he disconnected. Off we went to Harry's in St. Augustine. We specifically went early to be seated on the patio. For once I diverted from their shrimp and grits for a different incredible meal. Fried lobster pieces, shrimp, beef medallions, enjoyed it for two days. Off to home. Fortunately we made a restroom stop when Rob noticed the truck tailpipe was low. Note: a passerby stopped to check on us when he saw Rob under the truck. Masked but caring folks out there! Carrying half the garage, Rob repaired, and delightfully off we went after getting Sonny's take-a-way. So delicious since it was 2 p.m. and we had yet to eat.

Our listening book was John Grisham's *The Broker*. Ehhh. Okay.

Happily we were home before dark, kitties in, household quiet. Kaili left a beautiful bouquet of our yard growth. We are heartbroken that we are losing her, but it is time she moves on with her personal life and education. Just trying to remain thankful for all she has given our family!

Trust you are all also well. Reminder, camping is a great, safe getaway. Self-contained with your own restroom, kitchen, campfire, ...."

## Upcoming Events

### "Flamingo Fling" FTCAC Rally



The Fall Rally, hosted by FTCAC members of Traveler's Rest RV Resort and Golf Course in Dade City, has been rescheduled for April 8 - 11, 2021. Traveler's Rest will honor the reservations and deposits made for November. Further details to come. Mark your calendars!

### WBCCI International Board of Trustees Meeting

Hosted by the Southeastern Camping Unit, the Winter IBT Meeting will be in Sarasota, FL with arrivals on January 18, 2021 and departures on January 22. For details and registration, see the *Blue Beret* or <https://airstreamclub.org/2021-international-board-trustees-mid-winter-meeting>.

### Region 2021 Rally

Next year's Region 3 Rally will be April 21-25, 2021, at the North Florida Fairgrounds in Tallahassee. Further details to be announced. If you wish to volunteer, contact the Region 3 officers through [region3.airstreamclub.net](http://region3.airstreamclub.net).

### International Rally

Next Year's International Rally is scheduled for July 17 - 24, 2021, Wilson County Expo Center, 945 E Baddour Pkwy, Lebanon, TN. **Registration began August 5, 2020.** Check the ACI website [airstreamclub.org](http://airstreamclub.org) under "Events" for more details.

## National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) has initiated the process to develop its “[Second Century Campground Strategy](#),” first brought forth last January in an effort to modernize and strategically invest in campgrounds. The effort has been prodded along by many in the outdoor recreation industries – including the RV Industry Association (RVIA) – and is well-timed with the Aug. 4 signing into law of the Great American Outdoors Act, which will help fund the NPS’ reported \$12.5 billion maintenance backlog.

Named with a nod to the 100th anniversary of the NPS in 2016, the Second Century Campground Strategy’s primary focus is to develop a guide to centralize campground design information for future new campgrounds as well as any renovations on the horizon. An internal NPS team has developed and released a draft of the design guide, which is now available for public comment through Dec. 4.

## A New Insight

For those of us who travel with cats, or wish we could travel with cats, or perhaps wish we didn’t travel with cats, the following is from Ian Jamieson from the Airstream Club Europe.

Europe’s latest Airstream cat, Rana, is introduced to her Airstream. She is a 3 mth old Chartreux, a French breed known for adapting to travel and new environments. The Romans had them on their galleys!



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*